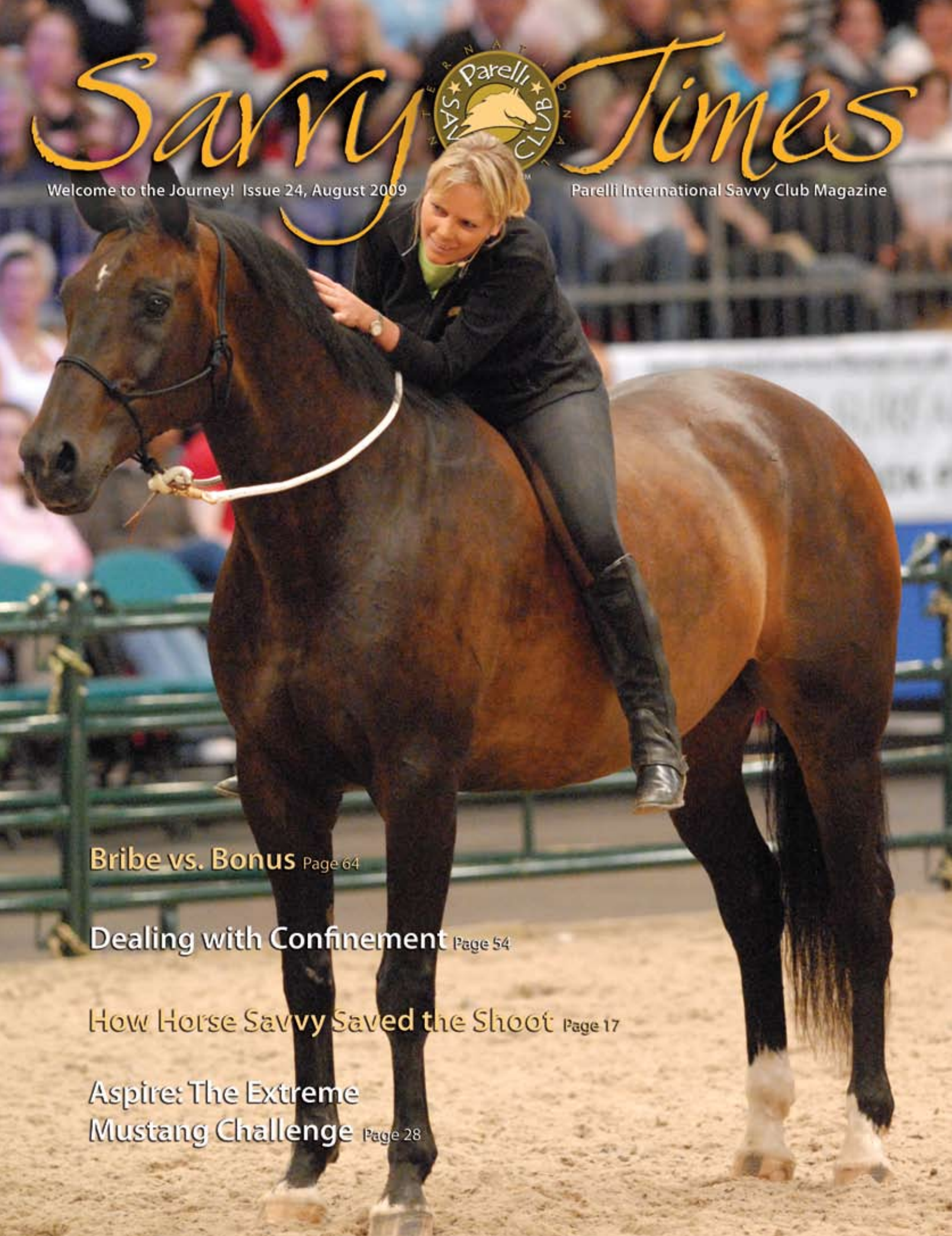


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# Savvy Times

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 24, August 2009

Parelli International Savvy Club Magazine

**Bribe vs. Bonus** Page 64

**Dealing with Confinement** Page 54

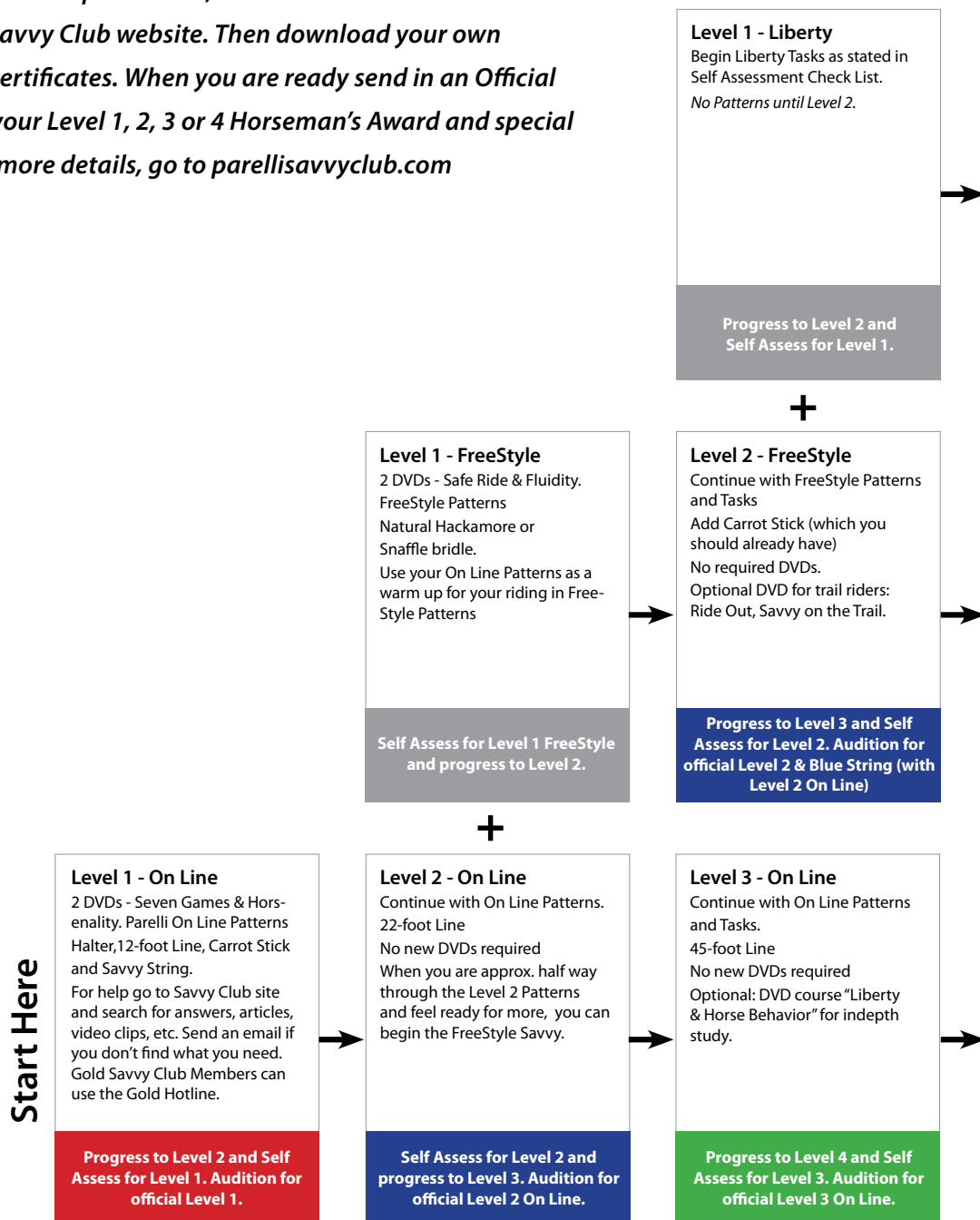
**How Horse Savvy Saved the Shoot** Page 17

**Aspire: The Extreme  
Mustang Challenge** Page 28

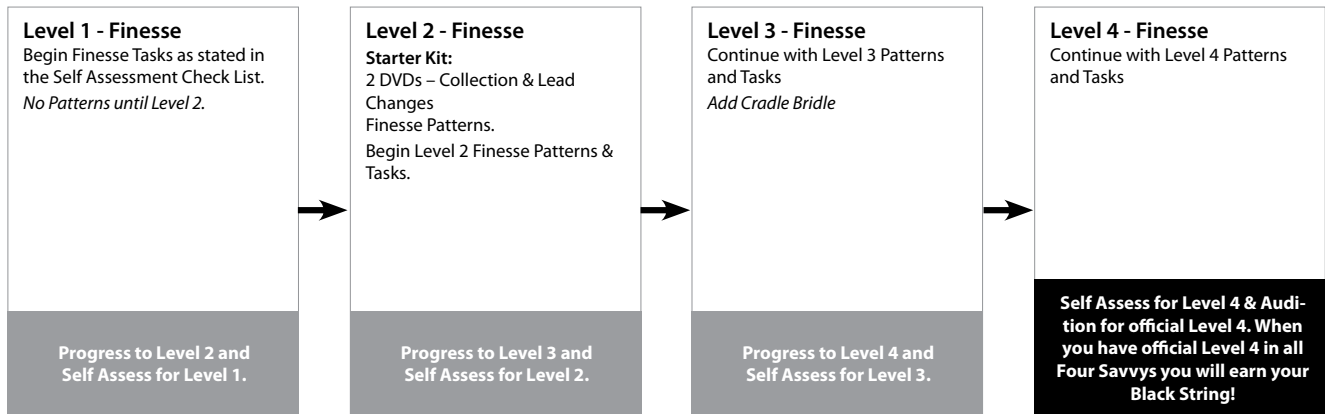
# Parelli Levels Pathway

## Your Journey From Level 1 to Level 4

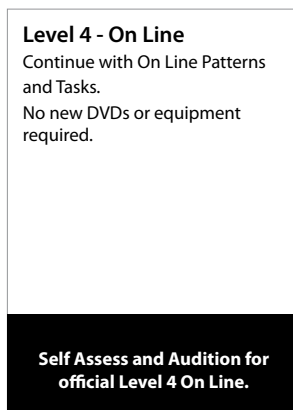
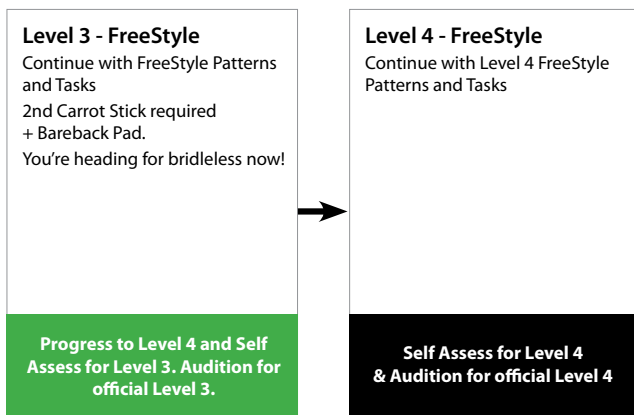
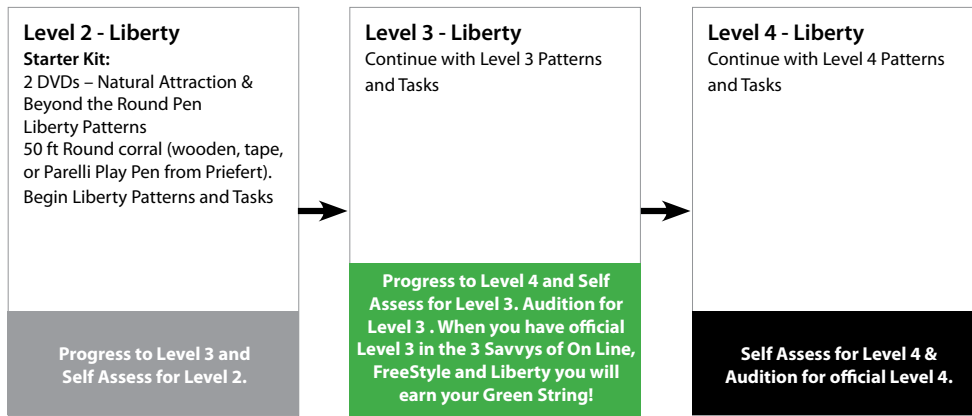
*Making progress step by step, increasing your savvy level by level has never been more simple. Now you can develop in one Savvy at a time and progressively Add-A-Savvy when you are ready until you are playing in all Four Savvys with your horse - or two if you don't ride! To keep track of your accomplishments, download the Self-Assessment Checklist on the Savvy Club website. Then download your own Self-Assessment certificates. When you are ready send in an Official Audition to earn your Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 Horseman's Award and special Savvy String. For more details, go to [parellisavvyclub.com](http://parellisavvyclub.com)*







+



#### Self Assess

There are a total of 16 Self Assessment Certificates to gain.

#### Official Audition

There are 4 Horseman awards to gain signified by a colored Savvy String & Official Certificate:

**On Line**  
at Level 1 = **Red String**

**On Line + FreeStyle**  
at Level 2 = **Blue String**

**On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty**  
at Level 3 = **Green String**

**On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty+Finesse**  
at Level 4 = **Black String**



Dear Friends,

When Linda and I joined together in 1993 we were committed to do more than train horses or run clinics. We focused all our energy on a very big goal—to change the world for horses and the people who love them. We set about to cause the level of horsemanship to rise and to change industry standards.

Rather than fight against injustice and ignorance, we chose to demonstrate another way—one based on the principles of love, language and leadership—to put the relationship first, develop a balanced foundation through Four Savvys and commit to never-ending self-improvement.

Along the way many people have joined the cause and helped us to share the Parelli message, taking us from humble beginnings to being the number one horsemanship program in the world. Today almost every horse discipline at every level has been touched in some way by Parelli, and many horses have been saved from being sold or destroyed by our teaching humans how to understand things from the horse's point of view. We gave life to a movement we named Natural Horsemanship, and it is now accepted as its own discipline.

The Savvy Club is about building a culture of dedicated students who join together to empower this cause. By being successful with your horse you will live your dream and at the same time help make the world a better place for horses and the people who love them.

Through horsemanship you learn to master the principles of relationships, which goes on to impact almost every other area of your life and the people you connect with.

Thank you for being part of helping us to change the world.

Yours naturally,

Pat Parelli

Linda Parelli



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# Savvy Times

ISSUE 24 | AUGUST 2009



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### 62 | A Trailer Loading Dilemma

A Level 3 student knows she needs to break trailer loading into baby steps for her horse—but how? Linda provides step-by-step guidance.

### 64 | Bribe vs. Bonus

Some people resist the practice of giving treats to motivate Left-Brain Introverts, but perhaps they don't really understand how to use incentives. Linda clarifies reasons and methods for making food an incentive.

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Linda Parelli  
and Remmer at  
the 2008  
UK Celebration



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# Getting Started

## Unlimited Access The Savvy Club Vault

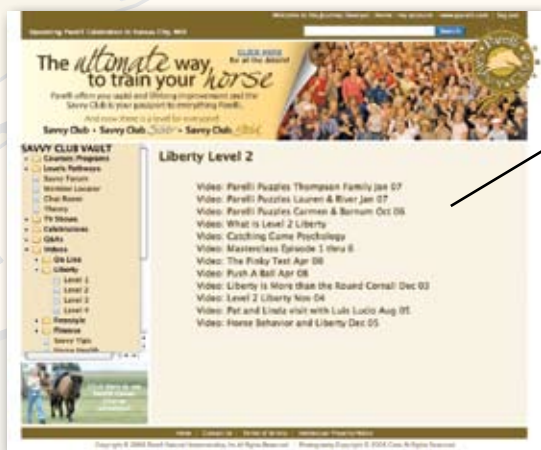


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3. Enrich your mind, increase your savvy, solve your problem and see answers to questions just like yours. Hundreds of articles, video clips and more!

### Saves You Time

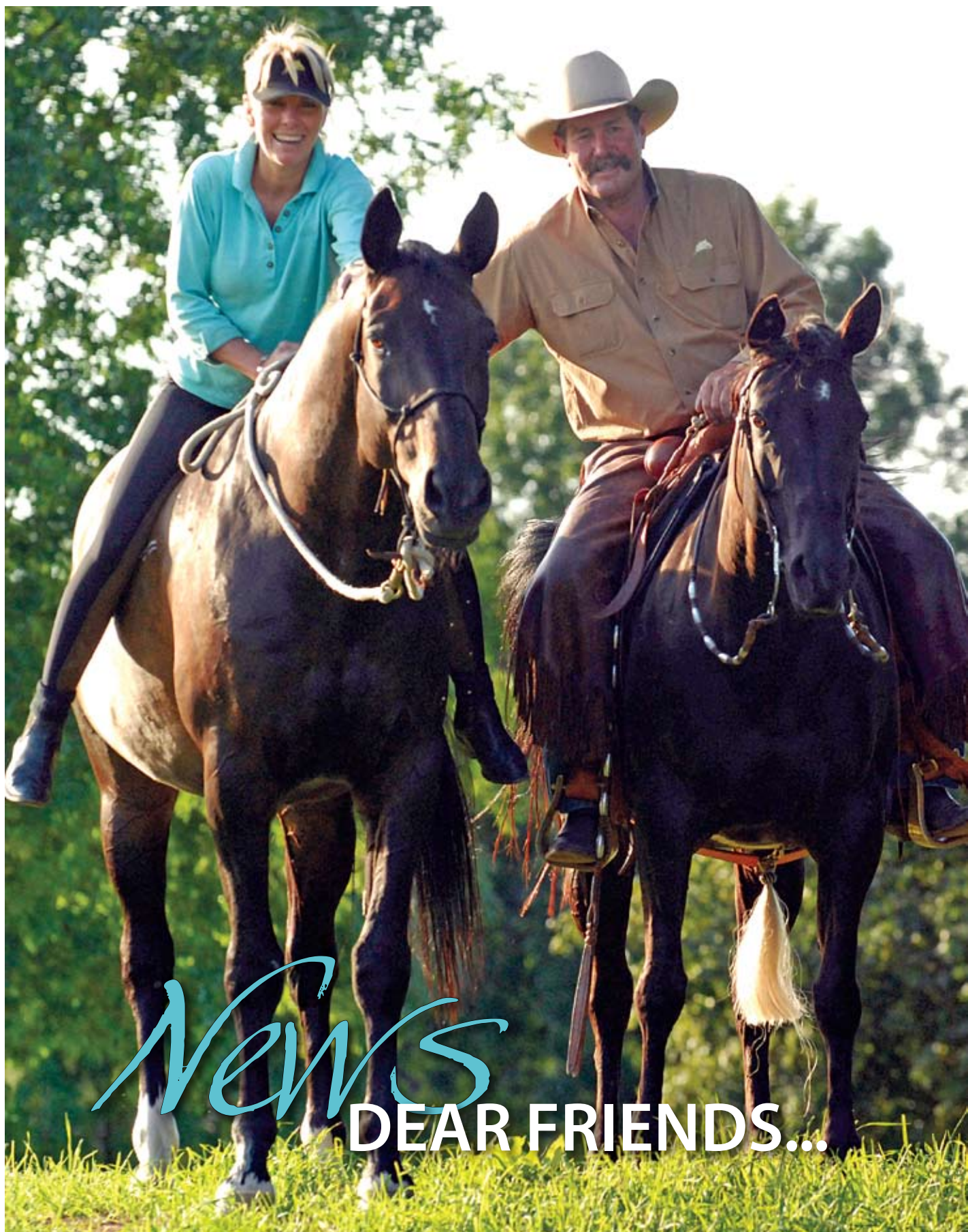
If you've got a very busy life the Vault is like getting a newspaper and going right to the sections and headlines you want to read. It's like having Parelli on demand. If your looking for something specific try our Google Search feature!



### Get Answers:

When you have a question the answer is here. We have thousands of answers to questions from students just like you all over the world! And if your answer is not here, email us: [savvyclub@parelli.com](mailto:savvyclub@parelli.com) If our staff or highly trained faculty cannot answer your questions, Pat and Linda will... plus there is the Gold Hotline for Gold members. No question goes unanswered in the Savvy Club! We are here to support YOUR success every step of the way.





*News*

DEAR FRIENDS...



The Pagosa Springs summer is gorgeous. It's the greenest we've seen since moving here in 1995, thanks to a great winter and a rather wet spring. The only problem is that Remmer's getting fatter!

Since writing to you last I'm excited to report that just over two thousand Auditions were received between Feb 1 and May 30, the deadline we set for the free period during our changeover. We were totally overwhelmed by how many of you stepped up and decided to officially audition with Pat's new and inspired approach to assessing your savvy via the Levels Program. Being able to do it Savvy by Savvy and level by level obviously has met with your approval! Above all, we love it. Why? Because it's easier to assess, more fun and more accurate. Something we always hoped to develop was a test that allowed you the freedom and opportunity to show your relationship. Here's the best part: most were rated a level or more above what they auditioned for!

As you can imagine, we have had our share of critics, but we know from experience that any time we change in order to be better, some people feel uncomfortable. It's a bit like Right-Brain horses—they don't handle change well! But with some time and consistency all will be okay again. Good, better, best... never let it rest! This is a progressive program. We are setting the standards and leading the way to the future. For those of you on the cutting edge with us, there are going to be times when you feel outside of your comfort zone, so welcome to the club. Personal development is rarely comfortable and rarely convenient, but so worth it.

### Celebrations Update

We now have five Celebrations under our belt out of the nine planned for 2009 and each one feels better and better. What we love best about these events is that we can talk more education with you because the events are primarily directed at Savvy Club members. This doesn't mean newbies can't come; you just need to catch them up on some details!

Every Celebration has its unique elements, first because of the Spotlights and second because of something unique to the local area. For example, at Reno in May there were some Spotlights that were so outstanding that Pat was compelled to award Level 3 green strings on the spot! And then there was Kalley from the Atwood Ranch, who brought a dozen yearlings into the arena, spilling out of the trailer as she jumped her horse JJ out to follow them! For the next 45 minutes we were spellbound as Kalley displayed how her savvy has grown since she left Pat's side two years ago. She skillfully, artfully maneuvered the babies from one obstacle to another, circling, driv-

ing, holding and at one point having them all stand on a giant tarp spread out on the arena floor.

As if that wasn't enough, the finale had us breathless. In came the truck and trailer with Mike D. and as he drove around the arena the yearlings all started chasing the rig! He poked the truck out the exit, and Kalley opened the trailer door and—yes, they started loading all by themselves. As the trailer exited Pat came into the arena and doffed his hat to Kalley in recognition of her growth as a horseman, after which Kalley and JJ jetted off around the arena in a victory lap as we all went berserk. The love, language and leadership she exhibited were phenomenal. We couldn't have been more proud and impressed.

Behind the scenes: I talked to Kalley the day before to find out what she had in mind so I could coordinate the music for her. She told me that she would unload the babies, do a few things, then load them up again—maybe five or six songs worth of activity. Yeah, right! I was armed and ready, but I still needed to find an extra three songs at the last minute! Forty-five minutes worth of songs was no mean feat, and I wanted them all to be about babies, youth, learning, growing, turning loose. I think my favorite was when I played the Rod Stewart classic "Forever Young" as she had those babies flying around the arena. I have learned to have tissues in my pocket!

Madison was also a highlight, but more for the Spotlights than anything else—and for my ride on Remmer with Walter Zettl. The horsemanship standard was so high in Madison that it was obvious the influence our instructors have had there, not to mention how many of them had been to the Parelli Center over the years. We saw some of the best Finesse spotlights, plus mother-and-daughter teams, and two that especially brought the house down were Kris Fulwiler and her magnificent Friesian Wouter, and Ted Axton with his Appaloosa. I'm highlighting just a few, but we really want to take our hats off to all of you who did what it took to put yourself out there and experience high pressure, exhilaration and sometimes massive learning experiences.

One other highlight during the Spotlights is that Pat chooses a few participants and either helps them overcome their horse's sudden attack of nerves or shows them how to take their performance to the next level. Too cool!

Parelli has never had a competition before, but now you're seeing the start of a competition that is about to rock the world—a competition that does not pit people and horses against each other but rewards you according to a standard. Everyone is a winner. There are no losers. How non-predatory is that?!

My ride with Walter Zettl was the best ever. Why? Good, better, best . . . what can I say? As a student, you know that at some point the planets suddenly line up, and you can do what you've been hoping to do. Same for me that day: My body behaved, my horse responded, I was out of his way and I was more confident than ever. Walter was fabulous, as always, and I had one other treat: Janice Dulak, my Pilates for Dressage mentor, was in the audience. She was the one who helped me to understand the next level of fluidity—what a horse has to do in his body for collection and engagement—so I could learn to do that in my body. She was very complimentary and then gave me a couple more tips. I'm really enjoying my journey of learning at this level and constantly thinking about how I can infuse some of it into Level 2 and Level 3. Stay tuned.

Oh, and if that's not enough, the Humane Society of the United States keeps finding super horses for Pat to play with over the three days so we can learn a lot and highlight the importance of saving horse-human relationships. Trixie, the rescue horse featured at the Madison Celebration, almost came home with us! What a lovely, misunderstood, neglected horse. She has now found her way into the hands of Lori, who was looking for her next Level 3 horse. Too cool.

### Our First Tele-seminar

Gold and Silver Savvy Club members experienced with us our first tele-seminar. Pat, Neil Pye and I sat around a teleconference phone and answered many questions that came in on all kinds of horsemanship issues. We loved it! We really had no idea how it would feel, and even though Pat and I have both done tons of radio interviews, this was completely different. It felt much closer, and with both of us adding our thoughts to answers, it was a lot of fun.

The second tele-seminar was even easier, and we had some interesting questions, not all of a horsemanship nature!

### Dr. R.M. Miller

For the first time ever, Dr. Robert Miller (of foal imprinting fame) and his wife Debby came and spent a whole week at



our place. It was fantastic to have that much time to talk and speculate about the horse industry at large, and whenever Pat and Bob get together it is fascinating. I hear things from Pat I didn't even know he was thinking about!

Dr. Miller is one of the most passionate advocates of natural horsemanship around, and he has been a great supporter and mentor of Pat's. He has dedicated his life to natural horsemanship and is busier than ever even in retirement. And as if that weren't enough, Bob and Debby are incredibly inspiring as a couple who have been married for 52 years, are closer than ever and in their 80s have more energy than most people in their 20s!

### Shim Breakthrough

Just a short note here to give you a heads up on one of the educational articles in this issue on a recent breakthrough in shimming for saddles. Many of you know me as a problem solver—I love to find something that isn't working and fix it. I had an opportunity recently to do that, and I took the opportunity to feature it for your learning benefit. What do you do when all of a sudden five of Pat's horses start to show white hairs behind the shoulders? Go to page 74 for all the details.

### Pat Competes in Cutting

Over the past two years Pat has been able to focus more on performance and has been developing Magic (now 20!), Peppy and his son Caton for competition. Cutting and Reined Cow Horse have been the focus, and for Caton, some reining. The mission is to prove that horses can be developed naturally for competition, and Pat donates all his winnings to the youth programs. Caton has also placed and brought the house down with his accomplishments.

### Oops!

In our May issue, we neglected to give photo credit in Karen Rohlf's article, "FreeStyle inside the Finesse." The photo of the Paint was taken by Terri Miller and the grey is by Dana Rasmussen.

### On the Horizon

New courses, taking the Parelli Professionals Program to the next level, Externs, Interns, the Mastery Program . . . and look forward to some goodies on the Finesse front.

Stay savvy!

Linda

# Oh, What Fun We Had . . .

by Jenny Beynon

*The British Open is an international show jumping competition held at the NEC arena in Birmingham, U.K.*

*This year it ran from April 16–19, and Parelli was invited to have an area called the Parelli Zone.*

We arrived on Wednesday afternoon to find everything set up and ready to go. The stand was big, open and inviting, with Parelli Celebration 2009 posters everywhere you looked. The arena was surrounded in green panels, and even the stanchion in the middle of the arena had cow-flavored barrel wrap around it—a little slice of Parelli.

Neil Pye and Sue Shoemark travelled from Colorado and turned us into an excited, enthusiastic team that could take on the world. They finished the day by giving instructors Terri Martinus, Sharon Crabbe, Sally Brett and Jody Ruysen their second stars and Rachael Morland her third star. It was inspirational to see everyone's development.

Thursday dawned rainy on the outside but sunny on the inside. It was the Savvy Club discount day, so we were ready for "doors open" at 9 a.m. and the arrival of the public. At exactly the same time the tickets went on sale for the Parelli Celebration 2009, so it was an exciting day for Parelli U.K.

The first demonstration was "What Is Natural Horsemanship?" with Neil and the Savvy Team. Everyone did a great job explaining what Parelli is all about—the relationship, the Four Savvys and never-ending self-improvement.

Next was "Share Parelli." Neil introduced this new networking site. All Savvy Club members received a free Share Parelli T-shirt on the condition that they put it on right away, and by lunchtime so many people were wearing the shirts that they were

causing a stir around the rest of the show, with other stand holders wanting to know how to get one. What did the shirt say? "Parelli—A Change Horses Can Believe In."

The Savvy Spotlight finished off the day, with the instructors showing us what they could do. They played with all Four Savvys in pairs and on their own, showing how the Patterns can be played On Line, at Liberty and riding. Parelli Professional Carmen Zulauf was the last Spotlight of the day. As she finished Neil wandered into the arena, quietly reaching into his pocket and bringing out a black Savvy String. As Pat's envoy he awarded Carmen her Level 4. I don't think Carmen's smile left her face the whole weekend.

On Friday we welcomed three new instructors from Switzerland to the team, and they easily jumped into the roles of organizing the arena party and helping out in the booth.

The Confidence in Riding demonstration was well received, and Neil and the Savvy Team did a wonderful job showing how to relate the Seven Games to riding!

By Saturday our feet were starting to hurt, but our spirits were high, and the bounce was still in our steps. The volunteers were facing their fears, conquering the laptops at the point of sale and taking orders like professionals.

Carmen Smith presented the "It's Not about the Trailer" demonstration. Not only did she present to the crowd, explaining that it really isn't about the trailer; she played with a horse as well.

Enthusiasm on the stand was as high on Sunday as it had been on Thursday. The Savvy Spotlights were a highlight once again, and it was great to see how much the horses had grown in confidence during the weekend.

The volunteers did a fantastic job and were an asset to the team. They were more than willing to do anything that was asked of them and always had a smile!

One customer said, "You must be working hard," to which we replied, "No, this isn't work—it's too much fun!" I would like to thank Pat and Linda for providing us with a passion we can talk about with the same enthusiasm on the last day as we did the first.

If I learned one thing from the weekend, it was that if the British Open is anything to go by, roll on the Parelli Celebration 2009 in November, because the Parelli U.K. team is ready! 🐾





# Exciting News!

***Linda, Pat and the Parelli Team are excited to announce that Cover-All has become the official sponsor of the Parelli Celebrations 2009!***



Make sure you say hello to Cover-All dealers who will be joining us at the Celebration events to share their wonderful buildings and products with you. Plus—enter the contests and giveaways provided by Cover-All while you are there.

Cover-All is 100% committed to supporting Parelli Savvy Club members in any way they can. Parelli will be working closely with Cover-All over the next year to develop exciting programs and activities that will benefit you and your horse. Look forward to more contests, promotions and discounts from Cover-All in the months ahead!

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***– Pat Parelli, Parelli Center – Pagosa Springs, CO***



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# Sydney Parelli Celebration 2009

by Georgia Davies

*I've been a Parelli student for about eight years, but it was my first time seeing Pat and Linda in Sydney. I was lucky enough to share this experience with some of my friends from Perth, and we sat in the front row, wide-eyed, absorbing every word and every moment.*

The experience was everything that I'd hoped for and more. Being surrounded by so many like-minded people with love for the horse in their hearts and on their minds was uplifting.

## Savvy Spotlights

We were introduced to the Parelli Games, with students presenting Savvy Spotlights throughout the weekend. The key to success was adapting to fit the situation, putting the relationship first and having fun! Students following these principles wowed and inspired the audience. Well done, everyone.

## The rescue horse—what a honey!

A highlight for me was seeing Pat earn the trust of Honey, a little palomino rescue horse. We watched this Right-Brain Introvert gain trust and develop curiosity and confidence over the three days. Pat was finely tuned in to her needs, always going at her pace, and he was rewarded as Honey tried her heart out for him. It highlighted the importance of “hurry up and slow down” and giving horses the space they need, even if it means fashioning a 67-foot line! Honey found a new partner at the Celebration.

## Lauren's journey for gold

We were treated to an inspirational and emotional presentation from Lauren, not once but twice. On the first occasion a storm passed over, and boy, oh boy, when it rains, it pours! Lauren was on board one of Pat's Aussie horses, Skip, a handsome Quarter Horse from Western Australia, when a huge clap of thunder shook the indoor arena and took out the whole sound system! I'm pretty sure that everyone in that place jumped except Lauren, Skip, Pat and his trusty equine partner, Rhythm. What a test of the safety of this program! We had the honor of hearing Lauren again on Sunday without the storm, and she brought home the message of staying positive, believing in yourself. If you put the relationship first, the rewards will naturally follow. We discovered that in Lauren and Maile's journey they found much more than a gold medal.

## Dancing up a storm—literally!

Yee-hah! As the heavens opened we danced our hearts out on Saturday night to fantastic tunes provided by Tim Sullivan and his band. Pat even treated us to some guitar playing, with Linda and her sister as backup singers and dancers.

## Introverts and Extroverts

We watched Linda play with two very different horses: a big chestnut Extrovert and a little bay Introvert. The importance of using different techniques for each Horsenality™ was clearly demonstrated, and the horses responded beautifully. It was lovely to see both horses asking questions and becoming more interested, willing partners.

## Finesse, cowboy style

Linda and student Justin Corbidge demonstrated that no matter what your uniform is, if you have the right position and fluidity, you can look super-fancy. I know we are all wondering if Justin left his stirrups at that length . . .

## Young horse starting session

On the last day one of Pat's students from America, Trevor, played with a young horse and gave him his first ride. It was great to see Trevor keep his cool and follow guidance while remaining soft, focused and safe. He did all this in front of a huge arena full of people and with a smile on his face—no easy feat.

So that's a small taste of the Sydney Celebration. “The techniques change,” said one audience member, “but the principles remain the same.” So don't just memorize the principles; learn them, live them, breathe them.

I hope you can make it to a Celebration somewhere and be a part of this experience. I know that horses everywhere are talking about Parelli. After all, it's the “the ultimate way to train your human”—isn't that how the saying goes?

See you all on the journey, and don't forget to keep it natural!

But here's the important thing: Life is perfect, and we are exactly where we are meant to be! Our horses live in the moment. 🐾

# Slow Down...We Are in A Hurry

*Sometimes, the more we learn, the more we realize we don't know. If we aren't careful, it can get the better of us! We may speed up and try to do too much too soon. Or we feel we did it completely wrong, so even though we are about to submit our Level 3 Audition, we decide to sign up for a Level 1 course and just start all over!*

To be there for them, we have to do the same. I am continually impressed at how the Aussie students live in the moment.

Pat says it over and over again: "Take the time it takes so it takes less time. Take care of your horsemanship, and it will take care of you. Principle before purpose; foundation before specialization." No matter how many times we hear it, we find ourselves saying, "Oh, *that's* what he means."

At the 2009 fall courses in Australia (spring if you're in the Northern Hemisphere) we had an opportunity to focus on the principles and fundamentals of Parelli Natural Horsemanship.

Just prior to the four courses we all had a great time at the Sydney Celebration and learned a lot by sitting with Pat while he judged the Savvy Spotlights. We kept hearing the following: "Patterns"; "Level 1 with excellence"; and "the power of neutral." These were the things Pat was pleased to see, yet the things that often go missing from a student's progression.

So during the next four weeks we focused on those very things in their respective courses.

## Patterns

Name the horse's four responsibilities; now name yours. Just as it is our horse's job to uphold his responsibilities, so is it ours, and the Patterns help hold us both accountable. In the courses we played with Touch It, Figure 8, Weave, Follow the Rail, Corners, Cloverleaf, Question Box, and even the Parelli Games Barrel pattern. By the end of the courses it was great to see humans and horses maintaining their responsibilities. We even had a world record in the Parelli Games when Bonnie McIntyre and her horse Irish showed their stuff in the course finale Parelli Games Barrel Race On Line!

## Which Leads Us to the Power of Neutral

It's easy to find ourselves following our horses as they travel around on the circle because we like to watch them move! But even if that is the only reason we are following them, we are still taking away their responsibility, and ultimately their dignity. We started to see students playing the Seven Games from a chair, with the belly of the rope on the ground, keeping their feet still while the horse trotted sideways. It was spec-

tacular! We saw horses hunting the Pattern.

We even saw Jodie stay passively persistent in the power position when her huge Thoroughbred mare showed her bellybutton to the entire class! Jodie

stayed neutrally cool, calm and collected, as if her horse were playing a stylish Squeeze Game.



## But It's Just Level 1 with Excellence

Simple but not easy, right? How can you set it up every time so that it is easy for your horse to say yes? Tracey is going home to a band of mares due to foal soon, and they will get a "Level 1 with excellence" mindset. We saw that Anne, Margie, Sue and Carol had progressed by leaps and bounds from the last time we saw them in November because they had focused on the basics, the fundamentals and Level 1 with excellence. Anne also passed her Level 3!

## Fun

Did I mention we had a little fun, too? We had campfires, rope coiling challenges, Carrot Stick™ matches, Parelli Games Tournaments and barrel races, and we even had a colt start demonstration by Trevor Carter to show that the more you know about the finish, the better you are at the start.

It's amazing how much we accomplished in four weeks by focusing on the basics and the fundamentals. And by taking the time it took, we ended up taking less time (but we still wonder how it passed so quickly). We slowed down because we are in a hurry to develop the ultimate relationship with our horses.

A special thank you to David Grace, Chris Corbridge, Trevor Carter, Sam Caporn, Lee Palmer, Janet Gray, Carmen Shoemark and our fantastic and inspiring students, who helped another Australia Parelli Courses module to be a successful part of changing the world for horses! 🐾



# 2009 UK Celebration

*Without doubt it's become the annual U.K. Parelli Paaaaaar-ty. The Parelli Celebration at the NEC/LG Arena in Birmingham is now a firm fixture on the Natural Horsemanship calendar. Here we talk to Parelli Chief of Operations Sue Shoemark about how the event comes together in order to make sure the thousands of excited students attending have a great time from both inspirational and educational points of view.*

## **Sue, once the 2008 event was over, when did you start planning 2009?**

Even before the 2008 show was over! Due to the impending and spectacular refurbishment of the NEC (now LG Arena), we had a choice of two dates in November 2009. The first one was close to HOYS, and as many of our students attend that outstanding and influential event, we selected the later date in November. Additionally, we had discussions on stabling, the on-site amenities (you know, food and loos—the big issues) and the relocation of the Parelli Plaza (for those of us who love to shop!).

## **Who decides on the program?**

Our program is always built around our principles of love, language and leadership to honor horses and humans! Pat is the most incredible presenter. As I watched him last year it seemed to me that he had been practicing all his life to be on such an amazing stage!

So the Celebration program is based on his vision. Linda and Pat decide what they would like to share in the show, and then we (myself and Neil Pye, my soul mate in both personal and professional life) add our two bobs' worth!

We are the voice of our students and our team members, and we are able to share their feedback and requests with Linda and Pat. Between us we have the yin and the yang and all are totally committed to "good, better, best." Every year we evolve, and so will the event. The most important lesson when working closely with Linda and Pat is to make no assumptions; they always have amazing new elements for us to consider!

## **How do you make the Celebration different each year?**

Actually, this one is easy for us. Growth and change are part of what we do, so our format is different each year. For example, this year Pat will play with either a rescue horse or a racehorse that needs re-homing.

In the U.S. we have a successful relationship with the Humane Society of the United States for all Celebration events. We have helped raise awareness around horse ownership, our responsibilities and welfare issues, and where Parelli fits in is in helping people be successful with horses so they don't end up with seemingly insurmountable problems.

Also we will be officially launching the Parelli Games. Watching everyday people like you and me achieve amazing results with their horses is inspirational and motivational to all of us.

Our goal is to have everyone go home with a fire in the belly to play with their horse, have fun and achieve a new level in the relationship.

Linda is excited to share more about Horsenality™, and her personal highlight will be having Walter Zettl with her and Pat for the whole event and then her very public lesson. The dynamics of Remmer, Linda and the delightful Walter under lights in the new LG Arena will be magical. This man is almost eighty, and he is the most delightful gentleman—a modern master who is dedicated to keeping the true beauty of dressage alive. It is an honor to have him as a member of our team, to guide and mentor all of us.



Naturally we will feature top students and great instructors and their special four-legged partners—all shapes, colors and sizes—from throughout the U.K. and Europe in Savvy Spotlights, some of whom will get a private session with Pat on how to improve! The more fun and inspiration we can share, the better.

And there is more: a refurbished arena, completely new food court and shopping plaza, plus a new production team that will help us take our show to a whole new level this year.

### **Is there a typical person who attends the Celebration each year?**

Naturally, the LG Arena will be full of horse lovers of all ages, genders and nationalities, from as far away as Australia and New Zealand.

Plus we have a small percentage of dutiful husbands or wives (who aren't into horses) who attend with their partners. Often these folks end up giving the event rave reviews. They are blown away by how much this relates to their professional lives or how they can apply what they see to their family or personal relationships!

### ***How lucky that we are sharing our passion—to make the world a better place for horses and the humans that love them.***

### **Is there one aspect of the Celebration you look forward to?**

Lots!! My personal favorite will be Pat's face when he sees the new arena from the stadium. He will be blown away!

Professionally, I will be at peace when the show has started—9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 21—the clapping, the music and Pat and Linda entering the arena with their precious horses. My spine tingles, the crowd goes wild, and smiles, cheers and happiness become a tangible energy. Then I know the game has begun and our 2009 Celebration will be perfect!

### **How do you deal with logistics and staff?**

It's all about teamwork. You can only systemize our events so much, with the dynamics of horses and humans and the constantly changing teams. There is always a need for flexibility, and change is what we live for!

We do have a superb, outstanding team of individuals who come together from all over the world to create this event. Every year all the variables evolve. Nothing stays the same, so we are always on our toes.

How lucky that we are sharing our passion—to make the world a better place for horses and the humans that love them.

Our team members share this as well. If they just wanted a job, we would drive them crazy!

### **Do you get much sleep during the event?**

Good question!! Actually, I do. Oh, I should say I can sleep once we get to bed. I started officially organizing tours for Pat Parelli in 1998—seven one-day shows in seven cities over about twelve days! I sure had trouble sleeping then, and when I did manage to sleep I was either dreaming of counting inventory or dreaming of working on the logistics for the shows.

What I have learned is that Pat Parelli will be the best Pat he can be, no matter how he feels, no matter what has happened. He is the most positive person I have ever been around. The show must go on and will go on, and he is always coming up with amazing ways to share his message of a more harmonious way to be with horses.

Neil Pye, a key player on the Parelli team, has been with Pat and Linda since the early nineties, so he is sensitive to their needs and presentations. Neil and Pat ensure that we don't take ourselves too seriously! Their mantra is Fun, Truth, Excellence and Results in all aspects of life!

### **What was Pat and Linda's reaction when they first walked into the NEC Arena in 2007?**

We parked outside the main entrance and walked them in the way an attendee would enter the show. We would normally enter via the stables so we could see the horses, but we wanted them to feel the impact of the arena.

As we entered the stadium the lights and sound were being checked. Pat smiled and was visibly moved—goose bumps all around. Hugs all around, too, and then he and Linda danced to the music!

### **Are there any other aspects of the event that are special to you?**

The U.K. Celebration is very much a reunion for Parelli folks, a chance to reconnect with friends or make new ones. Our instructors do the same. We will have at least fifty joining us this year!

The feeling of positivity, hope and caring that comes from getting a large group of Parelli folks together always blows my mind. What a wonderful way to spend our time as we get close to the end of another year! The future is bright for horses and humans alike.

At the end of the day it's the people that make it very special for me, so do come up and say hello.

Together we can be "the difference that makes the difference." 🐾

# A Well-Rounded Education

*For years Pat has been saying "Keep it natural." We have learned that nature is our greatest teacher.*

*Everything in nature shows us that relationships are major ingredients of life and happiness.*

by Lyndsey Fitch, Parelli Mastery Program Intern, and Sam Caporn, Parelli University Program Extern

As all of us embark on our journey with Natural Horsemanship we begin to realize that it applies to all aspects of life, not just the relationship that we share with our horses. We follow three laws that take us through the journey to true mastery of horsemanship.

1. Put the relationship first.
2. Study all four Savvys.
3. Undertake a quest for never-ending self-improvement.

These three simple building blocks that make Parelli different are exactly how Pat and Linda live out every day with their horses, students and peers. The Parelli program itself develops these traits in all of us, but now we finally have a way to get even closer to the source and study it more in depth with Pat and Linda!

The Mastery Program is the ultimate way to become a Parelli Professional. It is a well-rounded education. In the program you study the four Parelli Business Savvys: Horsemanship, Administration, Facility Design and Management and Teaching. Pat is now in a space where he has the facilities and time to select, develop and shape the most dedicated students with the heart and desire to share the natural message of Love, Language and Leadership with purity. This is an exciting time in the evolution of the program.

***This innovative career pathway creates an environment that brings together masters, great managers, established instructors and new students.***

As soon as you are accepted, you begin studying the same topics, theories and mentors that Pat and Linda do, which have caused them to become successful in their journeys. Pat and Linda's dream is for people to be just as good as they are at half their ages, and this program is now the fast track to doing just that. Pat has invested an immeasurable amount of time in creating a system through which he can track every step of a student's progress from start to finish. Every student has a profile that logs his or her daily activities and how much time was spent developing each business Savvy. When you graduate you have "before" and "after" pictures that show how much you have progressed in the time you spent in the program.

At this level of development Pat's focus and passion is breaking through the surface of information and teaching students the value and importance of critical thinking and emotional intelligence in the four business Savvys. You uncover new layers of knowledge, awareness and self-discovery about the way you learn and reveal your ability to look at situations from different angles, using your imagination to solve problems. This innovative career pathway creates an environment that brings together masters, great managers, established instructors and new students.

The Mastery Program is the next step in creating new standards and much-needed change in the horse industry, with Natural Horsemanship as the philosophy and foundation for every discipline and activity involving horses. With more



courtesy photo



people taking part in this program and then going out into the world to be living professional models of putting the relationship first, studying in all four Savvys, and commitment to never-ending self-improvement, we will change the world for horses and humans alike. There is a sense of enthusiasm that the ability to achieve something great is in our grasp.

### How Lyndsey Has Changed

In the last year and eight months I have had many experiences that have caused me to grow in all areas of my life. It is often hard to answer when someone asks, "Where have you grown the most?" or "What is the most important lesson you have learned thus far?" because there have been so many.

After reflecting on what has shaped me as an individual, I would say it has been being put into a passionate, progressive environment. Every day you wake up and you are challenged with the question "How can you be different today?" Before coming into the program I was an average college student who was lost and had no idea what I wanted to do or where I wanted to go. I always had lots of friends and had great times, but there was something inside me that made me feel like an outsider. I worked hard in my first year in college but still struggled and failed many of my classes. I also worked hard at my job, but I felt I lacked ambition, talent and passion. I had great friends who were fun, but I somehow "failed" to fit into the same groove. In the last year I have been on a roller coaster of self-discovery to learn why I felt this way and why I am starting to not feel like this anymore.

***I was the type of person who would start out enthusiastic about something and then lose that enthusiasm because the people around me didn't reinforce that feeling for me.***

Recently I have been reading a book from the Mastery Program reading list called *Play to Win*. It is a wonderful book, and there is one part in particular that really stood out and related to my story. The author talks about the difference between success and failure. He says, "Success is primarily defined by external measures—how much money you make, your rank in the company, and the respect accorded you by your peers," but he adds that another layer is often forgotten: fulfillment and depression. "Fulfillment, unlike success, is largely defined by internal measure, by how we feel about what we're doing or have done."

**Aha!!!** Over the last year I have been trying and experimenting with different ways to build my confidence. I never felt I

could achieve anything without my support group around me telling me I could do it. I also didn't believe that I was talented and smart without my support group around me reinforcing that belief. I was the type of person who would start out enthusiastic about something and then lose that enthusiasm because the people around me didn't reinforce that feeling for me. I was focusing on the "failure," not the *fulfillment*.

I am still working on building my confidence and focusing on the fulfillment of my actions, accomplishments and aspirations. The Mastery Program has made it much easier. I now know that when I have a "failure" it isn't true failure; it is more like a learning experience, and I can adapt and change to make the next day different and even better. I love being a part of the Parelli Mastery Program and answering the question "How am I going to be different today?" 🐾



courtesy photos

# The Parelli Professionals Promise

## **Relationship First**

I promise to put my relationship with you, my student, first.  
And I promise to help you put the relationship with your horse first.  
Rather than perfecting the task, we will care more about  
confidence, trust, motivation and willingness . . . as true horsemen do.

## **Four Savvys**

I promise to help you become well-rounded in your savvy  
both on the ground and riding; to prepare you for success at every  
level to read your horse, understand his Horsenality™ and develop  
your savvy skills On Line, at Liberty, in FreeStyle and Finesse.

## **Never-Ending Self-Improvement**

I promise to inspire and support your quest for never-ending self-improvement.  
The Parelli Pathway and Savvy Club will guide you to success and  
help you measure your progress every step of the way.



## Do You **Dream** of Becoming a **Parelli Instructor?**

*Visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com) to find out more information!*



*The Ultimate Way To Train Your Horse.*

To locate Parelli Professionals and workshop schedules around the world go to [parelli.com](http://parelli.com) and click on Instructors

# *Inspiration* HOW HORSE SAVVY SAVED THE SHOOT...



*"It's one thing to get a diver to pose for an underwater advertising still; it's a whole other savvy to get a shark to willingly participate in that!"*

Every time I go out to play with one of my horses, I set a goal for the session and mentally rehearse what I intend to do before I even walk over to the barn. I use my imagination to foresee things that may happen while we're playing. I do this to remove any uncertainty on my part and to insure that my responses will always project my love, language and leadership to the horse. Parelli Natural Horsemanship taught me that. I do the same for an underwater video or photo shoot. I have a list of shots that I set out to get, and I establish a clear and distinct method of getting them. I like to think of my job as being in the "creativity business." Many times this presents unknown challenges, and that's one of the things I love about my work.

When John Ellerbrock of Gates Underwater Products talked

the fight. I wanted to use that prizefighter concept for the shot with the Gates housing.

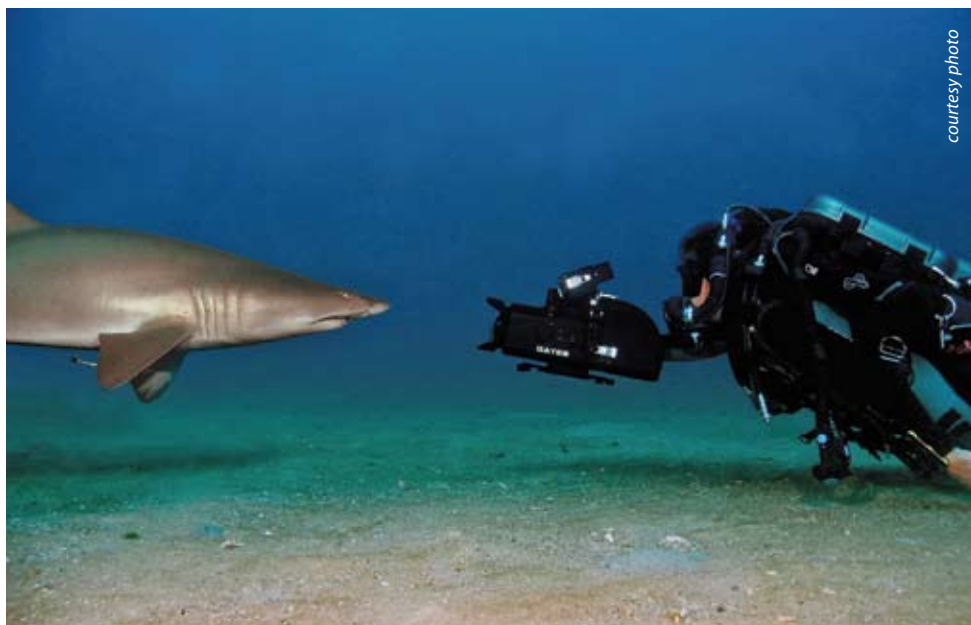
When you shoot wildlife, the goal is typically to capture the behavior of the creature in an activity that is rarely seen or in one that presents itself with an intrinsic or natural beauty. Conversely, when a creature is needed to "pose" for a picture, the typical answer is to find an animal trainer or wrangler that specializes in the species being used in the shot.

So the next steps were to identify and locate the sharks and then find a way to get one to pose nose to nose with me for a photograph. I wanted to use the sand tiger shark because of its menacing appearance, and finding sand tiger sharks was easy—I dive with them all the time. But for the life of me, I had

never heard of a sand tiger shark wrangler. After much internal debate, and motivated by my fervent desire to get the shot, I decided to see if I could teach the sharks to pose with me. Now, some have called me crazy for even thinking that I could do this, but after having spent as many hours in the water as I have with these marvelous creatures, I just knew they were intelligent, and I could get them to work with me.

My first order of business was to see if I could actually train the sharks, although I admit that the idea of "training" such creatures is a bit of a stretch. I was more focused on desensitizing them to my presence

and getting them comfortable in accepting my "head-on" approach. Unlike many other creatures on the planet, very little is known about sharks, and most are wary of humans. In fact, they are generally considered skeptics, cowards and panic-aholics! They also have lightning-fast responses, awesome acceleration and an uncanny ability to achieve high speed. Even though sharks are categorized as predators, I have found that in general they are opportunists and will always look for the "easy meal." Does any of this sound familiar? Yes, it occurred to me instantly that sharks are very much like horses! One other quick note about sharks: Just like horses, they are naturally curious, and it is that curiosity that gets them into



with me about how he wanted to improve and update his advertising stock by having his latest housing going nose to nose with a shark, I thought about it for a while, and then it occurred to me how I could get that shot for him.

The Gates tag line and basis for their advertising campaign is "Nose to nose is no time for failure." When I began to consider concepts for the shot, immediately a single image came to mind. It was from a Sylvester Stallone film, *Rocky*. In the film there is a shot of the two prizefighters standing nose to nose. The image is balanced and shows Rocky and the champion brutally staring each other down. It's a common image in boxing, but from that picture you cannot tell who is going to win

trouble with us, as we humans often confuse their curiosity with aggression.

My plan was to work with their natural instincts and traits to accomplish my goal of going nose to nose. So my task was to assess whether I could desensitize a sand tiger shark to the point where it would comfortably allow me into Zone 1. Oh, and one other thing worth mentioning here: In nature, “nose to nose” is usually an aggressive posture. Having firsthand knowledge of that, I did not take my objective nonchalantly.

*Just as in the Catching Game, I found that if I put slight pressure on the shark and retreated at just the right time, thus allowing the shark to feel comfortable and confident, it would follow me.*

June 2007. I was scheduled to be on the Outer Banks of North Carolina to supervise the underwater video production on an expedition to the Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor*. I arrived in Hatteras a week early to do my workup and gear checkout dives. On this series of workup dives I planned to spend as much time as possible with as many sand tiger sharks as I could. With the enormous number of sharks that frequent the shoals of the Outer Banks, I knew that finding them would be easy. My uncertainty rested with desensitizing them.

On the first dive I located a small pack of ten adult females followed by several of their young. In the past, whenever I had attempted to get shots with sharks they would move away or swim past me. So in looking to build their confidence and trust in me, I called on my abilities and background in using the principles and techniques of the Parelli program. I wondered as I approached the pack of sharks: Would approach and retreat allow me to build rapport with them? I had no idea.

It didn't take long before I discovered that only two of the large females were interested in playing that game with me. These two that remained with me allowed me to approach closer and closer. It worked so well that I was actually swimming alongside and stroking them! I even got them to follow me around! Just as in the Catching Game, I found that if I put slight pressure on the shark and retreated at just the right time, thus allowing the shark to feel comfortable and confident, it would follow me. At first they only followed for a few seconds or at a distance, but in no time the distance shortened and the duration increased.

This was still a long way from nose to nose, but I felt assured that I could use the “Ten Qualities of a Horseman” to achieve that goal. And that's just what happened on the subsequent dives. I was able to be nose to nose with these marvelous crea-

tures in no time at all! The next step was to introduce the Gates housing and a photographer.

Now, it's long been a joke of underwater photographers that the best form of shark repellent is a camera lens; my ambition now was not only to take two cameras with me, but to point them both at a shark!

August 2007. After spending all summer completing several physically demanding dive projects, I was ready for something easy and relaxing, like playing with sharks. So good friend and accomplished shark photographer Will Allen and I rendezvoused in Hatteras village, where we set out with our small support crew aboard the *Flying Fish* to get the “nose to nose” shot I was after.

Weather was playing touch-and-go with us, and as I looked out over the ocean I hoped that we would get our chance to make this happen. We got our weather break and set out on our first of three scheduled dives. The plan was for me to splash first and find several sharks to play with me. During my time alone with them I intended to identify a few that I felt would be comfortable in a nose-to-nose posture with me. My intention was not to swim directly at the shark; rather, I wanted to drift backwards (facing the shark) and have the shark follow me and approach even closer.

After thirty minutes Will was to join me, and together we'd work with the sharks to get the shot. As I descended into the field of sharks, all was going as planned except one thing: There were literally dozens of sharks in the field. There were so many, in fact, that I was forced to weave my way through and around the curious youngsters to get back to the older, more cautious females. Furthermore, there were so many females that I couldn't keep track of which ones I had already played with and which I was just meeting for the first time!

Clearly it would be easier to focus on the three sharks that tended not to flee as far as the others. The trouble was that when they did swim away, I found myself having to wait up to ten minutes before they returned. At 120' deep, even on a rebreather, I did not have that kind of time to wait. So my only other option was to weave my way over and around the other sharks to find them. At one point while I was doing just that, I signaled to Will with a wave of my hand, frightening the shark just below me. The cascading chain reaction of fleeing sharks sounded like fireworks going off, leaving Will and me sitting alone in the sand. Everything means something to the shark, nothing means nothing, and they are always watching for something.

During these dives I was both fascinated and amazed by how playing the Friendly Game helped give the sharks sufficient



confidence to stick with and follow me. You may ask, “How do you play the Friendly Game with a shark?” Well, I did not have a stick and string, but I did employ techniques of approach and retreat, comfort and discomfort, and I always kept in mind four things that are important to horses—safety, comfort, play and then food, because it is the same for sharks. I watched the body language of the shark and read its intentions, and it watched mine for signs and signals. We were able to communicate this way because body language is universal—even with fish!

My passive persistence and quiet technique paid off, and in the end we got the shot. Will did an incredible job capturing it. John Ellerbrock and Pamela Mertz at Gates Underwater Products were very excited and pleased with their new advertisement. As for me, I was so impressed with how well the Parelli principles and techniques worked with sand tiger sharks that I am currently producing a television series about shark behavior and how I interact with them using Parelli principles.

Overall, the experience was fantastic and magical, and best of all, it went even better than I had planned. This was in no small part due to the efforts of Will Allen, Dee McHenry, the entire dive boat crew and Capt. John Pieno and his wife Amy, who together own and operate the Outer Banks Dive Center.

I would be remiss if I did not also post a note of caution to those reading this article. As most of you are well aware, sharks are the ocean’s apex predators, and although humans are not part of their diet, sharks can be dangerous to us in certain circumstances. I do not encourage readers to attempt the interaction I have described with sharks without first learning, practicing and mastering the techniques on terrestrial creatures like horses and/or dogs. Without a comprehensive understanding of large animal behavior, interspecies communication and classical conditioning, divers should limit their underwater

activities to professionally guided dives and expeditions so that they can safely observe, appreciate and enjoy any time they get to spend in the water with these magnificent creatures.

I will always marvel at the beauty and wonderment of the shark. Every season, I can’t wait to get back in the waters of the Outer Banks and play with my newfound aquatic friends. I hope that after reading this article all of you will look at sharks with a bit more awe and fascination. And the next time you see a shark underwater, keep in mind that in most cases it’s likely to be the first time that that shark has seen a human, so please represent our species well. 🐬

*About the author: David Ulloa is the president and owner of Valeo Films Inc. (VFI), an independent film and video production company.*

*David discovered Parelli in 1999 and began his journey to Level 2. “It was at the Parelli Center that I started to truly understand the depth of this program. Parelli Natural Horsemanship isn’t just about horsemanship....it’s about putting your mind, body, and spirit into something you love. Sharing this journey is very special.”*

*As a technical diver and freelance underwater expedition cameraman, David’s passion for his work and his continued outstanding performance while working as an underwater camera operator, AD, UPM, DOP, line producer, writer, director and producer has earned him the respect of his colleagues as well as that of the industry at large. Undersea Expeditionary Video Services, the newest division of Valeo Films, specializes in expedition-style underwater film and video production. Its current projects emphasize the technical deep-underwater content on which the company is now focusing and for which it has a proven performance record. Most recently David Ulloa can be seen on the “The Quest For Sunken Warships,” a special series for Discovery Networks Military Channel.*

*In addition to his professional activities, David maintains a national presence in the film industry through annual sponsorships and participation in numerous film and diving-related events and is enthusiastic about sharing his experiences by speaking at conventions, schools, museums, group meetings and dive clubs.*

#### *Other Resources:*

<http://www.underseaexpeditionaryvideo.com>

<http://www.willallenphoto.com>

<http://www.gateshousings.com>

<http://www.outerbanksdiving.com>

<http://www.ocdiver.com>



# Create a Parelli Ad

Thanks to everyone who created a Parelli ad. To see all of the submissions go to [www.parellisavvyclub.com](http://www.parellisavvyclub.com)



Linda Hiller Deppe, Wisconsin, USA



Carolyn Knapp, Ohio, USA



Bill Kamke, Wisconsin, USA



Allison Stahl, South Carolina, USA

# Global Community

Reader submissions from around the world

## Prior and Proper Preparation Pays Off!

Diane Holt, Texas, U.S.

The unbelievable transformation of the relationship between Lucky (my gelding) and me began when he was nine years of age. As we were developing a language and building understanding through the Parelli program I was occasionally amazed by how many *opportunities* there were for us to grow and *challenges* to work through! It was hard to believe he had accumulated so many fears and negative images about humans in only nine years! I couldn't help but ponder: How incredible would it be to have a natural relationship with a horse that began at birth?

And so began the story of Zappa and Patootie.

I was totally committed to raising these babies using Natural Horsemanship principles and relied heavily on my friend who is studying Parelli Level 4. Having introduced me to the Parelli system two years earlier, she cautioned me that raising foals is a huge responsibility requiring extra savvy. Young horses are ultra-sensitive, emotional and impressionable. From day one (or minute one, because I was there for their first breath) each foal exhibited a unique and completely opposite Horsenality™ for me to understand and interact with.

Zappa, now twenty-two months old, is a big, kindhearted, beautiful, centered Left-Brain horse. We are truly partners. He asks me questions; we play and learn together every day. We have done many simulations and games with big green balls, scary blue tarps, tires, bubble wrap, etc. I know Zappa accepts me in every zone of his body. Although it appeared to be a non-event in Zappa's young life, to my absolute delight I was able to be the first human to sit on his back! And I was even able to dismount by sliding down over his tail!



Through lots of practice applying Parelli principles such as *putting the relationship first, maintaining the horse's dignity and taking the time it takes*, I have developed leadership skills that helped form a curious, calm, confident, young horse that accepts me. So if you ask me, Was all the time and energy worth it? *You bet it was!*

## Parelli in School

Kristen Hunnicutt, North Carolina, U.S.

My friend Teri and I have been Parelli students for about three years now, and we are seniors in high school. This year we are taking an animal science course that deals with horses somewhat. Next year it will be changed completely to equine science (too bad we graduate this year), and we were partly the inspiration for that change. We bugged our teacher, Mr. Norris, about Parelli and horses all year and constantly told him about Parelli-isms and facts that we thought pertained to animal science. And this year he agreed to show a Parelli DVD in class. After he saw the first one, he liked it and asked me if I had more. He said he would like to watch them one or two times a week! How cool is that? He said he thought we needed more animal psychology incorporated into the class instead of just anatomy all the time. So far we've watched about five different Savvy Club DVDs and a few from the Liberty and Horse Behavior program.

Earlier this year Teri and I attended the Franklin TN Celebration and had to miss three days of school to go. Mr. Norris told us to just work on our projects, which also had to do with Parelli! Boy, was that a fun weekend! Pat and Linda, you guys sure were worth it! When we got back we presented our projects to the class. We got to pretend that we were Parelli Performance Professionals, and we wrote a report on it. It was so fun!



## Life-Saving Savvy String

Elizabeth Deyermond, South Carolina, U.S.

I am a Level 1 Parelli graduate. I live at Brays Island Plantation, a 6,500-acre nature preserve in the marshy low country of South Carolina with miles of horse trails. Last week I ventured out on a lovely ride with my horse Q and my friend Pat, who was riding her horse Will. We were heading back to the barn on a pathway in the woods. We all sensed something was wrong, so Pat and I

dismounted. Immediately Q and I came under aggressive attack by a pack of feral dogs—some kind of bulldog mix—that came running out of the woods. I started yelling and took an aggressive stance while I swung my red Savvy String at them. They advanced to attack Q's feet; she spun around and kicked at them (good girl!). She stayed with me every step of the way, did her best to protect me and made no attempt to flee.

A gentleman from our Hunt Department came along by chance and ran toward the dogs with a 20-gauge shotgun. It jammed, and he had to whack the dogs away with the butt of the gun as they proceeded to attack him. He was chased back to his truck, where he retrieved a pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun, and he came out blasting, killing one dog and injuring at least one more. There is a hunt on our plantation for this feral "killing pack" of dogs that has been observed taking down a buck deer and killing it.

Kelly Sigler, my Parelli instructor, taught me when/how to dismount in an emergency. She recommended taking the Savvy String out on trail rides to reinforce my commands; she helped me to understand and to deal with my horse's fear. She taught me how to protect my herd of two.

All my work with the Parelli program and all those hours with the DVDs have paid off. Q was marvelous even when the gunfire started. We all walked back to the barn unscathed.



### A Magic Change In Me

Laurence Leclercq Ghaddab, Picardie, France

My principal horse is a Right-Brain Extrovert. Before I began horsemanship with Parelli I had many problems. I was crying every time because I didn't have any control of my horse and I didn't understand him. I didn't have any leadership. I was too friendly with him!

When I began the Parelli system I started to understand his Horsenality™. I use the Savvy Club website, Parelli Patterns and the help of a Parelli instructor (Maude Valeschini). I go very slowly because I'm alone and the only Parelli instructor I know is far from me. I learned to calm myself, because I'm an extrovert! And I am living with a magic change in me and in my horse!

Today I've made big progress with my horse.



He's very calm; he walks when I ask him to walk, and he trots when I ask him to trot! He is becoming more Left-Brain!

I'm in Level 2, and I want to progress more, to be better for my horse. I say to people around me, "The Parelli system is the truth!"

### The Transformation Is Indescribable

Manuela Murauer, Ried im Innkreis, Austria

Our older daughter wanted to learn Western riding, and we often watched when she took lessons. Our whole family felt more and more drawn to horses, and in 2004 we bought our four-year-old Quarter Horse gelding Atypical Jac. An exciting time began.

Being green and in my mid-thirties, I didn't have an easy time. I took riding lessons but had no idea about the basics. In hindsight, all the negative experiences we had could have been avoided. We were a disaster waiting to happen: a scared, inexperienced rider and a high-spirited horse. It felt like sitting on a time bomb.

Thank goodness we saw a Parelli show with the Austrian instructors. I was fascinated and took my first clinic with Ursula Schuster. It was amazing how much better I could communicate with Jac! With Ursula's input and the Savvy System I understood better and better what had gone wrong before. Soon my husband and I were able to pass Level 1. Convinced and excited about Parelli and the astonishing progress with Jac, we joined the Savvy Club, in spite of our limited English knowledge.



In a Level 2 clinic I learned a lot about impulsion, and Jac was thankful for my growing savvy—the result of a lot dedicated hours of practicing at home, the help of my instructors and the Savvy Club DVDs. Confidence and partnership soared to new levels.

The transformation of our partnership with Jac is almost indescribable: from a Right-Brain, dangerous runaway to a safe and trusting partner; from a dominant horse to a charismatic friend; from a horse not interested in my leadership to a fun horse trying his heart out.

Thank you, Parelli, for all the support and especially the club DVDs with German subtitles! We are very happy about that and understand the important inputs from Pat and Linda much better! The DVDs are getting better each time, and the January DVD is a highlight—we learned a lot from it!



# Extraordinary Parelli Lives

*My Parelli journey is proof that the darkest hour really does come before the dawn. For two years I had undergone the kind of mental, emotional and physical torment I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. In Parelli terms, this experience had made me an extreme Right-Brain Introvert—I was scared of my own shadow and wondered if I would ever feel joy again.*

by Sally Howes, South Australia

Somehow, finally, I found my way out of the darkness, and one of the first things I found waiting for me on the other side was Parelli. I have always been mad about horses, and, thanks to my very supportive parents, I have two lovely Standard-breds. However, I've also had rheumatoid arthritis for most of my thirty-one years and have been in a wheelchair since I was fifteen. Due to the progression of my arthritis, I was only able to ride for two or three years after I got my first horse, but horses have always been about "way more than riding" for me. I love them just because they're *horses*, and when other kids were reading books about riding, I was reading about horse psychology and behavior. The first time I heard the Parelli philosophy that "It's all about the relationship," I knew I had come home.

Part of me couldn't wait to start Parelli with my horses, but part of me was afraid that my body would not allow me to do it at all. My arthritis affects every joint in my body, so not only am I unable to walk, I also have limited upper body movement, and every move I make hurts to some degree. For someone with arthritic hands, even the weight of the Carrot Stick™ was daunting to begin with. I really needed some kind of help to start my Parelli journey; I needed less pain; and, of course, I needed the right horse. In June of 2006 I found all three.

I had shut people out during those dark two years, but as soon as I started letting them back in, one of my close friends (a Level 2 Parelli student) offered to visit me twice a week to help me start my Parelli journey. Then my doctor found a way for me to join a trial of one of the high-tech new-generation arthritis drugs. After a lifetime of being disappointed by sure-fire cures, I didn't expect this new treatment to work at all—but it worked spectacularly. It wasn't a cure as such, but the new medication cut my pain level dramatically, and I could move a lot more easily.

Now all that remained was to choose the right horse. For some reason, my instinct drew me to Lani. Marty was my first horse, my first love, and I hardly knew Lani at all. When I got her ten years ago as a companion for Marty she was definitely more spooky than he, but she was eager to please, and she

loved attention from people. So when it came time to choose my first Parelli horse, I chose her.

*The first time I heard the Parelli philosophy that "It's all about the relationship," I knew I had come home.*

Thus the day finally came when I got to play with Lani for the first time. I remember being astonished that she actually responded to my Porcupine Game and moved where I asked her to! I thought life just didn't get any better than that—but of course, life gets better every day with Parelli. It has shown me how to have a meaningful relationship with my horses without having to ride them—in fact, I enjoy playing with my horses On Line and at Liberty way more than I ever enjoyed riding. And without Parelli I never would have realized that Lani is actually worth her weight in gold. I'd had her for seven years and hardly bothered to get to know her. I spent seven years not realizing that I had an angel in my backyard. Lani has turned out to be extraordinarily patient, gentle and kind; I still can't find the words to describe her. I could spend my whole life scouring the world for the perfect beginner's Parelli horse and never find one like her.

Parelli has also, unexpectedly and wonderfully, given me a feeling of true acceptance and equality with other horse lovers. I did the whole pony club thing when I was a kid, and they were nice to me, but I always felt they didn't really know what to do with me. Parelli is the only branch of horsemanship I've ever come across that truly embraces disabled people. It is impossible for me to overstate how special that is. One day, probably two or three months after starting my journey with Lani, I was playing with her On Line, and I suddenly realized that, for the first time since that dark two years, I was living completely in the moment and experiencing the joy I thought I had lost forever. Out of nowhere, as if the words had been placed in my head by an external entity, I thought, "This is my reward." Parelli has been my reward for enduring the darkness and coming out on the other side. So many things fell into place to bring me to Parelli that I no longer believe that there is any such thing as coincidence. I know that I am exactly where I am supposed

to be. I had to travel a hard road, but if that was what it took to bring me to Parelli, then it was worth it.

### What I've learned about...

#### Attitude/knowledge

- What other people think of me is none of my business. Where Parelli is concerned—and perhaps for the first time in my life—I don't care what anyone thinks of me. I only care what Lani thinks of me.
- Being unable to do certain things is not all bad. My Phase 4 really is nothing compared to a horse's, but at least this means I can't put too much pressure on, and I can't make my horse stay with me. Want versus make has become crucially important to me.
- Polite and passive persistence in the proper position is also crucial—it's probably the biggest savvy arrow I have, and the one I use the most. I can't physically outmuscle a horse, but I can outlast him. Luckily, being in a wheelchair has taught me patience, and I'm happy in the knowledge that it's not going to take longer than two days!
- The easiest thing for me to do physically with Lani is to spend undemanding time, so we do plenty of that. Funny—only good comes of this. We have our rapport system down pat!
- Exaggerate to teach, refine as you go along—but all my movements are so small that even my exaggerations look like refinements. What feels really big to me actually looks very subtle. This can make the teaching phase difficult, but it makes me work smarter instead of harder; and Lani—who began as a Right-Brain Introvert and is now a confirmed Left-Brain Introvert—never, ever feels pressured.
- I now know the true worth of the Friendly and Porcupine Games—they may have saved my life. Recently, the 12-foot Line got snagged very short on the back of my chair. For a split second Lani panicked, pulled back and tipped me half out of my chair. Pre-Parelli, that would have been just the beginning—the wreck that ensued could have been deadly. But now, after two years of Parelli, that instant of pulling back was the beginning and the end. Lani stood quietly for many long minutes while we got sorted out. The only damage done was a couple of bruises for me—and our relationship survived intact.

#### Tools/techniques

- The Carrot Stick is literally an extension of my arm. It makes me big enough to defend my space effectively, and now I can reach *all* those itchy spots!

- Practice doesn't make perfect; only perfect practice makes perfect. I do a lot of practicing with the Carrot Stick, Savvy String, halter and ropes away from my horse. Once I really get something, I usually find that I can do less to get more—technique is more important than strength.
- When Lani and I were first learning the Porcupine Game, I couldn't press hard enough to even be noticed. My friend suggested I tape an old door key to the end of the Carrot Stick—it was sharp enough to be uncomfortable, but not too sharp. I removed the key from the stick a few weeks later and haven't needed it since.



- To help prevent the rope from getting caught on my wheelchair (a constant challenge), I remove the headrest, one footrest and anything else I don't really *need*. Then I slip an old chaff bag over the backrest to cover the myriad little hooks and handles so the rope can slide right past them.
- No horse is taller than the tips of her ears when her nose is touching the ground. Haltering Lani was a big puzzle for awhile, but I finally managed it by tying the Savvy String (attached to the Carrot Stick in the usual way) to the headpiece of the halter, then slipping the stick and string over her head as in Friendly Game, using the Porcupine pressure of the string on her poll to ask her to lower her head, then dragging the string over her poll and pulling the headpiece up and over with it. My angel horse stood like a statue for fifteen minutes while I figured all this out. 🐾

# From Horses to Husbands

by Christine Massinger

*Two years ago I had the privilege of taking a course at the Parelli Center in Ocala, Florida. I knew that what I would learn would greatly help my relationship with my horse. What I did not expect was how greatly my human relationships would benefit—particularly my relationship with my husband Doug.*

The course was scheduled to go from late October until early December—six weeks total, not an insignificant amount of time. In advance of the course Doug and I had spoken at length about how he would need to take on many of my normal daily obligations around the house and farm so that my time could be freed up to really concentrate on my education at the course. He knew how important the course was to me, so he agreed to take on these extra responsibilities, even though by doing so he was taking on a lot. Things were off to a great start for me on the domestic front. Doug and I had set a new schedule for those six weeks, and I was relieved that I could fully dedicate myself to my Parelli education.

One of the first assignments we were given at the course was a game called “Me and My Shadow.” I had been studying Parelli for a year before the course and had heard of this game before. I thought I knew the purpose and importance of the game and had been simply walking around with my horse while in Zone 3, matching the horse’s movements and even mirroring her breathing patterns. What I learned at the course was a new level of the “Me and My Shadow” game that was more about

establishing mutual respect between you and your horse and also about the importance of swapping leadership. The key was to switch leadership between you and your horse by no more than 2%; that way the partnership was still respected, but someone—either you or your horse—would be making decisions until the next swap of leadership took place.

*I also noticed a very interesting phenomenon emerge: The more I honored his opinions, the more he honored mine.*

While my horse and I played this game I started out as the leader by that 2% margin. I decided how fast we would walk, where we would go, what other horses we would follow, all the while respecting my horse’s opinions as my partner. As it turned out, during the time that I was the leader we stayed fairly close to the other people and their horses. When we swapped leadership by that 2% margin and my horse was making the decisions, wow, was I surprised! She didn’t want to stay close to the other people and their horses at the ranch

at all; she wanted to travel all over the acreage. She took me directly to the patches of grass that she liked the best, and she was very clear with me that after exploring the acreage she wanted to hang out in the woodsy areas. She had clear opinions about what she wanted to do. This was a light-bulb moment for me. If I hadn’t been taught to swap the leadership while doing this game, I would have never have known what was important to my horse. I would never have learned what she was thinking. I would never have learned how to make





her happy. I would have never have learned how to honor her opinions.

About three weeks into the course I was beginning to notice that the extra home and farm responsibilities that Doug had added to his daily obligations were beginning to make him feel unappreciated. Here I was living my dream by taking a course at the Parelli Center, and my husband was dealing with his normal work obligations and then adding to them by taking on my daily chores and obligations. He didn't come out and say it, but I knew he was thinking things didn't seem fair. This troubled me, and I didn't want him to feel this way. But what could I do to make him feel more appreciated? Ah—the next light-bulb moment.

I made the decision to apply the principle of the “Me and My Shadow Game” to my relationship with my husband. At a time when he most needed to feel respected in the relationship, it was up to me to prove to him that our relationship was

not all about me and my wants and desires. During the last three weeks of the course I consistently relinquished that 2% margin of leadership to him. I made it a point to show him that I honored his opinions, thoughts and desires, whether by choosing to watch his favorite TV show rather than mine, going to his favorite restaurant instead of mine or discussing first the things he wanted to discuss. I relinquished that leadership role to him by that 2% margin, and when I did, I noticed that he felt more respected and became happier. I also noticed a very interesting phenomenon emerge: The more I honored his opinions, the more he honored mine.

To this day I continue to incorporate the principle of the “Me and My Shadow Game” in both my horse and human relationships. It's a simple concept, but with it I have found the bonds of those relationships have grown much stronger. Who would have thought that a course about natural horsemanship would years later have such a profound impact on a marriage? 🐾

like horses...



courtesy photo

## Babies are trying to communicate with you.

*“As parents we want to think that we know what's best for the baby. Based on the System, the baby is telling us some very basic things that he needs... and we just have to respond. It's brought Caleb and me closer, and without a doubt it's brought my wife and me closer.” —Eddie Christudhas, father of Caleb, 8 weeks.*

*“Before, we thought our baby was unpredictable. She wasn't unpredictable; we just didn't know what she wanted. Now that we are able to respond quickly to her needs, she cries very little. We are able to take her out and enjoy our lifestyle. We're happy, and she's happy—that's the goal.” —Michele Hedden, mother of Gabriella, 4 weeks.*

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to all your pregnant friends!**  
[www.dunstanbaby.com](http://www.dunstanbaby.com)



# Aspire

by Ellen Carroll

*I knew very little about mustangs when 3-Star Parelli Professional Jesse Peters asked if I was available to record his first encounter with a member of the breed. He explained he had accepted an invitation from Pat and Linda to take on The Extreme Mustang Makeover, to be held in Ocala, Florida. My answer was "Yes!" I was on board. The following day Jesse provided the cameras, and off we went to pick up the mare with one of Pat Parelli's stock trailers in tow.*

Upon arrival at our destination Jesse focused on finding the main office to clarify which mustang had been assigned to him. In the meantime I took photos and milled around, eyeing the herd and watching their response to the many people peering into their pens. The horses were ducking their heads continuously to hide behind one another. When one flinched, the others followed the lead in a wavelike response. None of the horses seemed comfortable with the onlookers; they were mostly suspicious.

For those who may not know, Jesse is 6' 7", and mustangs in general are stocky, not known to be the tallest, although there are always some exceptions. Most are athletic, traveling close to the ground as they forage for food, comfort and shelter. Intelligent equines, they trace their lineage back to Spanish horses that traveled up from the southwest. Over the years there have been occasional out-crosses as bands broke up and outside horses were introduced either by default (becoming lost) or by being given up to the range by humans, eventually to breed to these wild horses.

*The thought that Aspire would perhaps also go through this was gut-wrenching and seemed to me to work against Parelli principles.*

Jesse's mare (whom we named Aspire) was a typical example—stocky, thick, strong neck; prominent head with a good eye; huge stride making up for her shorter stature. Jesse grinned as he realized he would be paired with one of the shorter horses and was excited about the prospect of playing with her. At first Aspire was Right-Brain, terrified. She was shy in this environment, not the herd leader but clearly able to protect her space, a bit of a loner yet attached to the herd and their good judgment to survive. It was clear this was a wild horse: self-preservation was undeniably at the top of Aspire's list.

As the horses were culled one by one through the maze of panels you couldn't help but feel the confusion and fear in these wild horses, evidenced by their body language and high energy. Although well intentioned, the haltering process was no confidence booster for the horses. The mustangs were sent through a narrow chute with high, solid walls while the humans stood above, lowering the halters into the container, trying to get halters on with minimal struggle. Direct line? You bet.

It was troubling to hear the fearful screams from the claustrophobic horses and witness the occasional horse slipping, flipping over, driven by the adrenaline rush. The thought that



Ellen and Jesse with Aspire

Aspire would perhaps also go through this was gut-wrenching and seemed to me to work against Parelli principles.

Not surprisingly, Jesse had his own plan. Jesse asked the BLM reps if it was mandatory to halter each horse before it left. The answer was no, yet they seemed to be surprised. They knew these trainers were only being given seventy-two days to tame the wild mustangs, and haltering was a service—one of the biggest obstacles for most. Jesse was a savvy gentleman. He thanked them for the offer and asked them to allow Aspire to remain halter-free.

*This presentation was like no other—  
an awesome example of true horsemanship at  
a level most would never witness again.*

Jesse's decision was clearly an opportunity to build his relationship—to wait and allow Aspire to choose the halter when she was ready to accept it and, in reflection, him. I can't tell you how proud I was of the "attitude of justice" that showed in Jesse's decision. He followed the Parelli principles. Aspire was invited to exit around the haltering area with the least amount of trauma possible, all things considered. Thanks to Jesse's savvy, Aspire rode those four hours home like a dream!

Unloading was just as uneventful. Jesse backed his trailer up to Aspire's allocated turnout area, and she walked off curiously to spend time inspecting her new digs—snorting, spooking and neighing a bit, still clearly wild and seemingly not interested in humans.

I didn't see Aspire again until a month into her time with Jesse. He was playing with her On Line and starting to ride her. It was heartwarming to witness her change of perspective when it came to the towering cowboy, as well as to other humans and to things. No longer fleeing from his slightest move, she trusted the human connection he had promised and delivered.

The next time I saw Aspire was at The Extreme Mustang Makeover in Ocala on April 4, 2009. I visited her in the stall; alone with her for the first time, I stroked her neck and felt that she should never again have to experience anything less than the Parelli method of putting the relationship first. I wondered if Jesse would be interested in keeping her

with him if I bid on her. I mentioned it to Jesse, who flashed a smile and looked tempted. But he told me that as much as he would love to tour with Aspire, he had to remember prior commitments and plans, one of which was his impending marriage in the fall of '09!

As time progressed I noticed seven-year-old Australian Parelli student Ben Bannister helping Jesse with Aspire. He was very much in tune with her, and she was respectful of this seven-year-old's leadership, playing the Seven Games and more. I pulled Jesse aside and asked if he thought Ben's parents would be open to Aspire as another steed for Ben. Jesse thought the idea was a great one. He told me Ben was extremely attached to the mare, had worked hard to help Jesse whenever possible and had been trying to convince his folks to consider adopting her. This was meant to be!

Saturday night was the Finale of The Extreme Mustang Makeover. Jesse and Aspire had made the semi-finals, and by the end of the evening they won event, with Linda and Pat Parelli, their team and local Parelli students cheering them on. It was emotional and electric.

The bond Jesse and Aspire displayed was stunning, unlike any I witnessed that evening. The crowd roared with enthusiasm throughout Jesse and Aspire's performance. Even the judges said to the packed audience, "This presentation was like no other"—an awesome example of true horsemanship at a level most would never witness again. The relationship between man and horse was witnessed by all as an intimate dance, a union and partnership established with respect and trust.

When Jesse won that evening he was asked to speak. He took off his hat and directed his gaze straight to the Parellis, thanking Pat and Linda for all they had taught him, and



*Jesse and Aspire score perfect 10s  
and win the Mustang Challenge.*





students all over the world, about true horsemanship. Then Jesse donated the proceeds of his winnings to The Parelli Foundation to give others an opportunity like the one he had. It was a beautiful, principled and honest gesture.

The next day there was an auction. Emotions were high! Ben was sitting next to me, as were several other children, close to tears, worried about losing Aspire. Somewhere in the audience, unbeknownst to most, sat Pat Parelli. After discussing it with Simon and Julie, who agreed to allow Ben to add Aspire to his herd, I asked Ben if he would take Aspire. Would he keep her going in the Parelli world if I adopted her? I explained to him that I felt a horse like Aspire should continue her learning, and it would ease my mind if he would be willing to accept the responsibility for this wonderful mare. I shared that I was afraid she might be lost in the sale, and with her heart she deserved to stay in the Parelli program with someone she loved and trusted. Ben was agreeable. He actually offered me a generous check from his savings to help. I suggested he establish a trust fund for the two of them, because maybe along the way they would be in need of some things. He agreed. My only request was that if Ben ever left the country or outgrew Aspire, she would come back to me for the rest of her years, to which he agreed.

Finally Aspire entered the arena, and the bidding began. Young Ben helped show the mare on the ground while Jesse spoke to the crowd about her. In the end Aspire topped the charts, bringing in the highest price of the sale, with proceeds going to a great cause—care for wild mustangs! And my bid was the winning bid. It meant so much to me.

Aspire is now with me in Virginia until the fall of 2009, when she will meet up with Ben in Ocala to begin their journey under the guidance of Pat Parelli himself. For the summer Pat felt it best to give the three-year-old Aspire some time off to digest those seventy wonderful yet intense days of learning. Great judgment, I thought. Aspire is enjoying her summer days frolicking on our grass fields, taking relaxing trail rides with me and readying herself for the next phase of her journey.

*Note: News spread that Aspire, the famous mustang, was here, and the Humane Society of the United States asked if I would foster four more BLM Mustangs—two mares with foals. It has been a great joy, and I hope they will be adopted by Parelli students down the road! 🐾*

Jesse was one of three instructors to whom we offered this opportunity, and we were thrilled when he accepted. Pat told him that he could bring the mustang to the Florida Parelli Center and that he would help guide Jesse as needed. It was a huge learning experience for Jesse, who did a wonderful job taking Aspire from wild to wonderful using love, language and leadership.

We were proud to watch his success at the finals and were totally surprised by his generous donation of his winnings to the Parelli scholarship fund to help other students learn what he has learned.—Linda Parelli

# Parelli Essentials

## Before... After

Having had so many comments about how different my horse Allure looks these days, I thought it was about time to show the before and after transformation of his physical health.

The 'before' is from five years ago when I first got him. Notice that Allure's mane is coarse, dry and frizzy, and quite bleached out. His coat is an odd orangey-brown-red and he would bleach blond in the summer.

Some of you may also notice the bulge at his throat, this is an enlarged thyroid gland (goiter) and is a contributor to some of his extreme behavior.

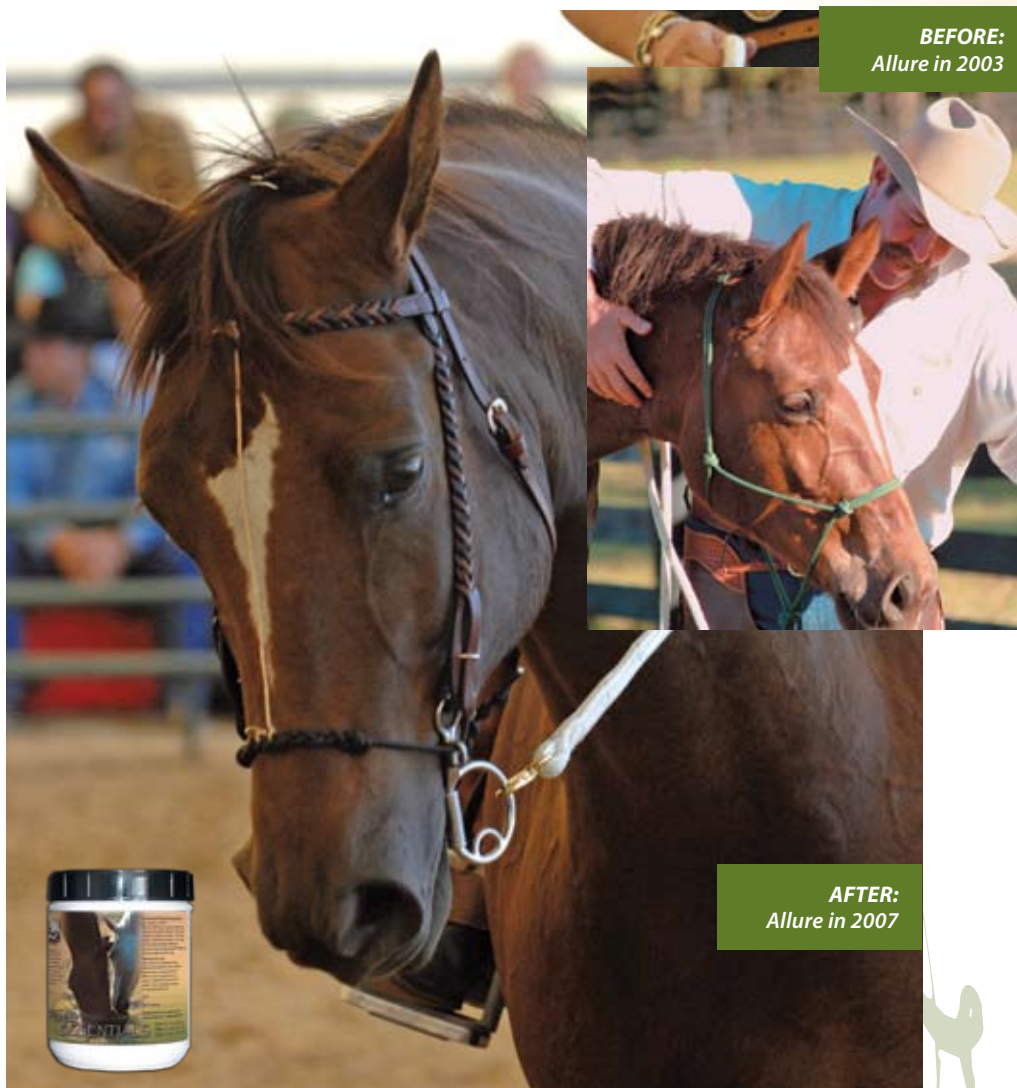
The 'after' photo was taken at the 2007 Savvy Conference last September. As you can see his color has changed dramatically and the goiter is virtually gone. His coat is soft and shiny all year long (even winter) and his mane is almost straight.

When I first got Allure we didn't have Essentials. He was on vitamins, minerals and our feeding program. But when I started him on Essentials about 18 months later I saw changes within a week and every year he just looks and feels better and better. This summer he only had a few bleached hairs on his shoulders and tail instead of over his whole body, and his hormonal stability has also changed. This amazing formula of amino acids and herbs is alchemy at its finest. (By the way, Essentials was formulated by the same man who inspired my research on Horsenality.)

Essentials makes you realize that it's not about the nutrition... unless you can utilize those nutrients! Make sure your horse is able to digest the nutrients you're giving him. Learn about the Parelli feeding program by using the Savvy Club website search.

*Essentials - way more than a supplement.*

*I have two geldings that have had health issues in the past few years. The first horse, Dusty, is thirteen years old and has had colic and foundered in the past three years. The second horse, John, has had chronic diarrhea since we purchased him five years ago. I give Parelli Essentials to both of these geldings daily. Dusty's weight has stabilized, and he has not had any episodes of founder or colic. John has been able to maintain his weight while on Parelli Essentials. The one time I did run out of Parelli Essentials, John immediately began to lose weight. You could see the difference in the condition of both horses when they were off Parelli Essentials. The overall condition of the horses is much better when they are on the supplement. They have more energy, and you can see that they feel better. They act and look like healthy horses when taking Parelli Essentials daily. Parelli Essentials is an insurance policy for my horses. I will never be without it. —Kim B.*



**BEFORE:**  
Allure in 2003

**AFTER:**  
Allure in 2007



# Liberty Patterns

## Not your average horse exercise program.

### Only Way to Train a Horse!

Brian Hogan, Idaho, U.S.

My wife Kristi, my daughter Lindsey and I got our first horses about ten months ago. We have never owned horses or even taken any riding lessons. When we finally got our horses we started playing in Level 1 and went to two Parelli clinics with Dan and Gretchen Thompson. During the winter we watched the Patterns DVDs while waiting for the snow to melt.

Long story short, all we wanted to do was trail ride, and



boy, there is a lot more that goes into horse riding than we thought! There were a few days each month when I thought, "The heck with all this Parelli

training. Maybe I should just go to a horse trainer and do it the old-fashioned way." But I stuck with it. Then one day things started to click; my horse was actually looking to me for leadership. I started doing some of the Liberty games, and all I can say is wow! This is so cool! My horse follows me everywhere, runs alongside me, jumps barrels as we run together, does the Circling Game when I just point in the direction for him to go and jumps barrels with a simple finger point. He even picks up my hat and gives it to me. Thank you, Pat and Linda. This is the only way to train a horse!

### Disbelieving

Rachael Hartley, Florida, U.S.

Before the new Patterns my horse and I had been working solely OnLine. I just didn't believe he would stay with me without a rope... Liberty seemed unattainable for me and my Left-Brain Introvert. Then I watched the new Liberty Patterns. Wow! The basics didn't look so hard! Afterward I went out to the pasture, and after a few moments I asked my horse to move out in a circle. I was stunned when, without a twitch, he walked twelve feet out and circled me. Disbelieving, I asked him to come in. He did. Since that day we've been practicing the Liberty Patterns daily. Using the Liberty Patterns has made Diamond and me more attentive to each other. They've

motivated both of us!

Liberty is improving my everyday life with my horse. Our relationship is much more visible, and my friends are stunned by what we can do!



### Liberty Spotlight

Cindy Giannini, California, U.S.

I just got home from the Reno Celebration. Pat awarded us a green string and said Vegas and I were Level 3++ in Liberty! The Patterns really helped our preparation for our Liberty Spotlight because we expanded our savvy by doing the Figure 8s, Weaves, circles, transitions and changes of directions using barrels and the ball. Vegas got more motivated using the Patterns, and I had a lot more imagination.



### Sparkling his Interest

Amy Muns, Indiana, U.S.

The Patterns at Liberty have improved our Liberty overall. I have been playing with my six-year-old BLM mustang, whom I adopted at four months of age. His name is Shadow, and he is a Left-Brain Extrovert with Left-Brain Introvert tendencies. Our Liberty has improved dramatically. He offers me things like backwards by the tail and leading by the ear. Doing the Figure 8 Pattern at Liberty has really sparked his interest. He looks at me and asks questions because the changing of direction and going around and through the barrels requires him to think and not assume what I want. I can send him, and he knows to go out and around, and then he asks me if





that's what I want. On line he was getting bored and stopping or just taking over and acting up. But once we went off line he perked up and became more obedient. Overall our Liberty has really improved. He asks me which way to go and doesn't get bored because I can be more provocative and use his play drive and energy for something constructive and not just the same old Seven Games, which Shadow decided were *boring* until Patterns were introduced. Thank you for the Patterns! We now have fun things to do, and my imagination is fired up again.

### Halter on Last

Laura Nelson, Florida, U.S.

The concept of when a ride begins is infinitely elastic. These days some of my most joyous moments with horses take place at Liberty prior to what I used to consider "working" with a horse, before the Seven Games and way before swinging into the saddle.

My main squeezes—Thoroughbreds Zar, Abigail, Juan and Byron; Spotted Saddle horse Sundance; Quarter Horse Jenny; Leopard Appaloosa Mule Col. Mosby; Andalusian Justine; and Hanoverian D'Lady—are all at different places in the journey. But each starts our sessions with the same pattern at Liberty.



I invite them to follow me at Liberty out of the pasture or stall to a shady spot in the parking area near my truck, which serves as a mobile tack room. My farm is perimeter fenced, but in the parking area they are essentially free on 300 lush acres. Yet they stand peaceably as I slowly groom them. If they move away, I ask them back. They turn and come back, and I put them in place again. Mostly they stand still for the duration, enjoying the soft brushes and my undivided attention. I put polo wraps on each leg, then settle and adjust the saddle. Then comes fly spray. They wait unrestrained with a benign look in their eyes, comfortable in the Pattern that begins every session. Finally, when they are shined, wrapped and saddled, I ask them to lower their heads for bridle or halter. As we walk together to the field where we usually start to play, they are in every sense with me.

Only another Parelli horseman will understand my delight in this quiet little Liberty Pattern outside the round pen. It is not something to show people. It just demonstrates to myself, after a lifetime of controlling horses, that lines are for advanced communication, not restraint. I never fail to feel happy when

I put the halter on last. Everything I know about horse body language indicates that the feeling is mutual.

### A Bit of Luck...Before

Isabella Thostrup, Ringwood, U.K.

Wow, what can I say? Never did I dream that I would be where I am now. My best friend is Flin, my Welsh Part Bred, Left-Brain Extrovert gelding, and to have the relationship we have now is simply mind blowing. Before the Patterns we were doing all right at Liberty, but it was a little bit of luck here and there if it worked

or not! Now words cannot describe the amazing feeling I am getting from this little horse. With the Patterns I got a few ideas as to what I could do with him

to get his mind engaged, and I can hardly believe how much effort he is putting into trying for me, both in the round corral and out of it.



### I cantered and did simple changes!

Karen MacLellan and Roslynn, Nova Scotia, Canada

One of my favorite Parelli phrases is "Parelli is way more than riding!" Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to live this phrase to the fullest, as I had been living with chronic kidney failure and the increasing exhaustion that comes with it. Then last spring I was extremely fortunate and found a living donor match, and I received the gift of life with a healthy kidney. During my recovery I was advised to avoid contact with all animals, *but* the doctors told me I could be near my horse if I wore gloves. I realized that advancing my Level 2 OnLine and Freestyle was now on hold, but I still had Liberty! Thus I turned to my new Liberty Pattern package, and with my natural, positive and progressive attitude I set forth on my Liberty journey! At first I spent many hours of undemanding time with my innately Left-Brain Introvert mare, and as my strength increased we played through the first four games and then explored the Circling Game Patterns. Playing at Liberty was the most humbling and enlightening time I had spent with my horse, and the most important lesson I learned during this time was that the relationship always comes first! A year later I am still not "officially" back in the saddle, but I am healthier and stronger, and I have a better relationship with my mare as we continue on our life-long Parelli journey.

# The Parelli–Zettl Matchmaker

*Susannah Cord had no idea what she'd taken on when she staged the East Meets West clinic in September 2005. This is a story of inspiration, faith and overcoming criticism.*

## How did you come to know Pat and Linda?

My husband Alex and Pat go way back. As I understand it, one of Alex's friends in L.A. was one of Pat's first clients there. So while Alex and I were dating in the late nineties, we attended one of their events at the L.A. Equestrian Center, and I met Pat and Linda briefly. Years later, in 2004, we had married and moved to Texas to a farm just down the street from Craig Johnson. One day I drove to Craig's, and there was Craig with his wife and daughter zooming around the outdoor arena with Pat and Linda, horses just loping and zipping and sliding everywhere. I kept looking for the RFD-TV cameras! Craig reintroduced me to the Parellis, and they invited us to attend their event in Ft. Worth that weekend. We attended and became Savvy Club members. Alex insisted he needed to get his name in the giveaways bag—he just had this feeling. Amazingly enough, he won the big prize—a week at the Parelli Center! That summer we went to Pagosa for the reining course with Pat and Craig, and the next year Linda invited me back for her Advanced Fluidity course. That was a great course—really inspired me.

## How did you first discover Walter Zettl?

I was looking for a mentor. A fellow dressage enthusiast invited me along to a dressage clinic—turned out it was a USDF clinic with Walter Zettl. I was hooked within the first minute. I felt as though I had looked for him all my life.

## What made you know that Walter was special?

I had always searched for and been blessed with good trainers with integrity and wanted to stay in that vein, but I found it harder and harder to find a teacher I trusted. I wouldn't do the "crank and spank," and I believed there was another way to move up the ladder. And

when I saw Walter, I just knew: "Here it is." I applied to ride in the next USDF clinic, and my horse was a nightmare to ride for two days straight—yet Walter never lost patience and never told me to "make him round" or otherwise muscle him into submission. He didn't want me to put a noseband on to shut Tom's mouth, as suggested by an audience member. Instead he defended the horse's right to "speak," and he saw and loudly appreciated every little try Tom gave us. When Walter asked me, "Who trained you?" I felt as if I had just received the biggest compliment of my life, although it was my worst ride ever. But I knew he had seen and appreciated what I *wouldn't* do to my horse. I felt my horse and I were safe with Walter; we had the same ideals.

## Why did you give Linda Walter's tapes?

Several reasons. For one thing, I had just come away from Walter's clinic weeks before so full of joy and inspiration at my new discovery that I desperately wanted to share with the world. I felt a kindred spirit in Linda. We hit it off immediately, but I also knew her opinion of what I would call "the bad dressage." As a dressage "fan-atic," it bothered me. I felt the dres-



sage world had much to learn from the Parellis, but I also felt Linda was missing out if she didn't find "real dressage," and that generally people in the dressage world would not give Parelli a chance unless they found some common ground. So I wanted to help bridge the gap. Most of all, I passionately love and believe in dressage and wanted to share this passion with my newfound horsey friend. I wanted Linda to experience what dressage could be with someone like Walter at the helm.

***For me it was about demonstrating that dressage can help every horse and rider and improve all disciplines by improving balance and skill.***

#### **What inspired you to put on this clinic?**

First, it was just about getting to ride with Walter again. That meant putting on a clinic. But getting him to give me a date was impossible because he was so booked up. So I knew I had to sweeten the deal. I had told Walter about my flirting with cutting. He expressed a sincere desire to work with more western riders, and that's how I got the idea to bring reiners into it. Once I had the idea, it appealed to me on other levels. For me it was about demonstrating that dressage can help every horse and rider and improve all disciplines by improving balance and skill. It was about bringing attention back to the core of real dressage, not the mainstream mess we see today.

#### **How did you choose the participants?**

Because of the unique nature of the clinic, we decided to focus on professionals, to have riders of a skill level who could really showcase Walter's teachings.

Craig Johnson and I were shoo-ins, as we were hosting. Then I advertised in local dressage newsletters, and Craig was in charge of choosing the reiners. Only two dressage trainers responded, and they were two of the three trainers I had hoped for, so that made it easy. In the meantime, Craig and I talked to Pat and Linda about riding in the clinic. They were very supportive, and both Craig and I thought that was brilliant—bridging three worlds all at once in the name of good horsemanship.

#### **What happened when word got out? Tell us about the criticisms and controversy.**

Oy, oy, oy . . . got some serious hate mail. How could I sully dressage with cowboys *and* Parellis in one fell swoop? Who was I to so abuse the opportunity to ride with Walter Zettl? Here Linda had openly criticized dressage, and she got to ride in a *dressage* clinic, and this with a renowned master! A bulletin board on Chronicle of the Horse went ballistic with over

32,000 hits in twelve days. I was called every name in the book, and Walter and I were both ridiculed, as were Pat and Linda. All kinds of rumors flew as fact. We were doing it for the money (obviously they had never put on a clinic!), for notoriety, and obviously we had been brainwashed by the Parellis. No serious dressage person would ever have done such an awful thing to dressage. The other extreme was total disdain. How could such a clinic teach anyone anything? Waste of time and of Walter's abilities. Puh-shaw!

My personal life was delved into, and misunderstandings about the clinic flourished, and both Walter and I had to repeatedly post corrections on the board in regard to clinic proceedings, because completely false and erroneous assumptions were made and reported as if they were truths.

I thought everyone should be thrilled or at the very least respect that we were bringing this age-old wisdom to the world of reiners *and* Parelli.

#### **How did you cope? How did you handle it?**

Their personal attacks on me and my husband were hurtful. At first it's shocking when someone who does not know you blatantly reaches out to hurt you and (mis)judges you and your life and intentions. But it didn't take long until I found them funny—they were so absurd. It became a game: How nuts are they going to get today? It was a lesson in how easily people with a little knowledge are threatened by what they don't understand.

I had expected some furor around the addition of Pat and Linda, so I was relatively prepared there and enjoyed defending their right to ride. I was surprised at the sheer volume of it, though. Finally I just got bored with it. The cattiness and willful misinterpretations became tedious.

What bothered me most was when people attacked Walter. That was disrespectful to a man who deserved nothing but the utmost regard. The very fact that he wanted to do the clinic should have inspired them to attend, not attack. But Walter handled it so well that it helped me to let it go.

All in all, I decided it made for excellent free advertising, and indeed it brought in people from around the country. This more than made up for the frustration and disgust the comments initially caused.

#### **What do you feel the clinic accomplished?**

It brought a great many people and ideas together that would likely never have met otherwise. It rippled around the globe, literally, and maybe opened a few doors and minds and hearts along the way. It helped cement the relationship



between Parelli and classical dressage, Zettl style, and of that I am perhaps most proud; the overall effect of that alone is staggering. I feel I really took one for the team! Sometimes I think that was the main reason some mad angel whispered the idea in my head and got everyone else on board. It was kind of serendipitous the way it came together.

At one time we were seriously thinking about and looking at putting on another one. But now I feel that the one was enough; it did what it was meant to do.

***I am driven by the desire to give back to the horse, to give back for all the wonderful gifts and companionship with which horses have blessed me over the years.***

#### **How do you feel about modern dressage? What are the problems you see?**

Talk about a loaded question! I feel strongly and—unfortunately for me, because it saddens me so—negatively about modern dressage. I don't think people want to abuse a horse to ride dressage or go out purposely to ride bad dressage; they just don't know or care that there is another way.

As far as I can tell, extravagant and often incorrect gaits are winning over correct and careful training. In fact, one of our most renowned international judges, now deceased, once said as much. I can't remember which World Cup it was, but at the press conference following the competition Jaap Pott, the judge, said he feared they had awarded the medal to the wrong ride that day, and in so doing they had changed the face of world-class dressage forever. He said they had awarded the gold to the best mover, not the best-trained horse. That has unfortunately turned out to be true.

It is a very confusing forum, and it is very easy to feel lost. I always tell my students, "If it feels wrong, it probably is wrong, at least for you and your horse. So walk away—it's still *your* horse."

#### **What drives you now?**

To see, over time, a weak and unbalanced topline develop strength, power and grace, a downhill horse embrace his uphill alter ego, a broken-down horse regain his true nature—nothing is more satisfying to me. When a horse lets go of all his tension and

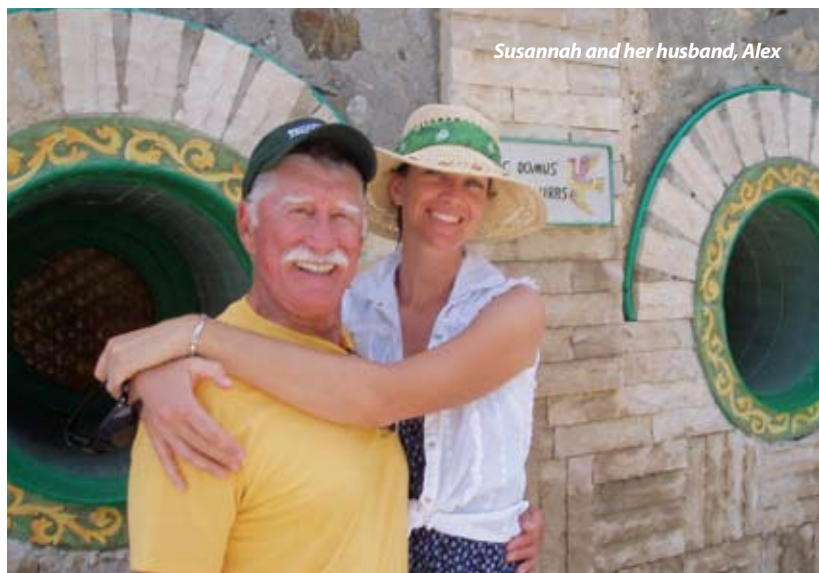
the misconceptions that have been applied to him and allows the energy to flow, allows his muscles to move him, it sends tingles down my spine every time. For me, that is the purpose of dressage. To make the ordinary horse extraordinary, to polish the rock until it shines and to help a horse build on or regain the promise of its natural wonders.

I have a deep desire to see dressage return to its sincere roots. I want to be on my deathbed and know that not only did I become the best horsewoman I could be in this lifetime, but I also did what I could for the object of my passion by giving back the best way I could, looking out for horses everywhere.

I want to reach out and assure people less fortunate than I that there *is* another way that honors both horse and rider. And I am driven by the desire to give back to the horse, to give back for all the wonderful gifts and companionship with which horses have blessed me over the years. They are so much more than horses to me.

And then there is the Haute Ecole rider in my belly, just busting to get out. 🐾

*Susannah Cord is a devotee of natural horsemanship and a dressage trainer who hosts regular clinics with Eddo Hoekstra, a protégé of Walter Zettl. She writes a monthly column at an online magazine devoted to classical dressage and good horsemanship, including natural horsemanship, [www.horsesforlife.com](http://www.horsesforlife.com), which supported the East Meets West clinic and focused an entire issue on it in 2006. You can see some of the rides with Craig, Pat, Linda and Susannah on Walter Zettl's DVD series, bonus footage.*



*Susannah and her husband, Alex*

*Jazz is willing to listen because he can finally understand what I'm trying to say.*

I felt I should drop you folks a line about my experiences with the Cradle Bridle. My equine partner is a Morab named Jazz. Jazz is a Left-Brain Extrovert with dominant tendencies; he is absolutely convinced he is equine royalty and doesn't understand why everyone else doesn't feel the same way. He has little patience for "baby talk" and "shouting." One of our early breakthroughs was to keep my suggestions and requests small, subtle and distinct.

While our groundwork has been going very well (solid Level 2 with some Level 3), our riding has been somewhat stalled. Jazz is my first horse, and it has taken me some time to gain confidence. Being a Left-Brain Extrovert, Jazz is impatient with hesitant leaders in the saddle. If he doesn't feel I'm being a good leader, he'll take care of it. He would never mean me harm; he just won't follow my instructions.

I've been playing with him using the hackamore for some time, with little progress. Turns turn into circles in the direction he wants to go; he'll brace against the hackamore and generally ignore my suggestions.

My wife suggested I try her Cradle Bridle (with the C3 bit). She has a Left-Brain Introvert who is much more involved when riding in the Cradle. I resisted for a while, thinking I needed to get things straightened out with the hackamore before moving to the Cradle.

*What a difference!* On our first ride with the cradle Jazz became significantly lighter, much more responsive and much less argumentative. It isn't a question of 'make'; Jazz sulls up if you try to 'make' him do anything. To me it seems that the communication is much clearer. Jazz is willing to listen because he can finally understand what I'm trying to say. Instead of trying to shut out the loud 'voice' of the hackamore he's listening to the subtle communication of the Cradle.

Thanks so much for creating this product. It has not only made our riding a much more enjoyable experience, it has also helped me improve as leader and partner for my horse. —John E.



**Big Rings** give you more direct contact with the bit.



**Small Rings** reduce the direct contact of the bit and engage the noseband more.

**Your horse will tell you** which ring position he prefers (Big or Small Rings), and it's easy to switch from one ring to the other as you experiment or the situation changes.

For more information visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com)

*Cradle Bridle*



# The Parelli Center

Colorado



## Stop Spinning Your Hooves and Start Living Your Dream

by Mary Anna Conti, Wilmington, IL

When people asked me about my experience with horses I used to expel a huge sigh and say, “Bucked rolled, kicked, dragged, bitten, struck, thrown, stomped, run away with and flipped.” You can imagine the next question: “Why would you continue to have horses?” Even with these experiences, a horse lover has no dearth of answers. They are beautiful, intelligent, funny, engaging animals. Horse lovers love everything about horse husbandry. They love how horses look, act and even smell. Somewhere in horseland there was a place where being bucked, rolled, kicked, dragged, bitten, struck, thrown, stomped, run away with and flipped were irregularities and not the norm.

Desperate people say desperate things like “I will pay you any amount of money if you will help me.” Desperate people do desperate things like actually signing that check. And it is easy to become distressed about horses. I used to be frantic about horses until I became involved in the Parelli program. Here is my tale of despair and redemption. If you have had a horse and felt as if you were fumbling around in the dark with little guidance and all the information you were receiving was contradictory, then you may find inspiration in these words.

Horses are like spouses. They can be relatively easy to obtain but very hard to get rid of. Whole worlds are built around them. There’s the barn and the tack and the turnout and the trainers. How can you just abandon all this investment? But things begin to happen. Riding and horses become unsafe.



One becomes riddled with fear. Trainers are abusive to not just the horse, but you, too! Soon you are in way over your head, and what's worse, you can't get out. There is no one to turn to.

Thirteen years ago I returned to horses with the zeal of a fundamentalist convert. Prior to that I had ridden as a child and worked a few years in livery. I found a riding instructor and began to take five lessons a week from a woman affectionately referred to in the local horse community as "the exorcist." Something always felt wrong, but as a neophyte I did not really know what it was. After all, beginners don't know what they don't know. I knew of Pat Parelli from my horse days in the 1980s, and I remembered that he had been impressive. You can guess who dissuaded me. That's right: my teacher. "That natural stuff is a bunch of hooley." Twelve years of frustration, fear and failure brought me to the brink of renouncing all horse activity as inherently incompatible with my personality. I had been told that I was too nervous, too imbalanced, and too emotionally distraught to ever succeed with horses.

My horse had a suspensory injury, and I was sidelined, much to my own relief! It preyed on my mind: What was I going to do? Give up? After watching a YouTube video of Parelli student Honza Blaha I was inspired by the relationship he had with his horses. His horses followed him with bright, curious eyes. They jumped, backed up, and circled him with no halter, no bridle and no saddle. They had adoring, cooperative looks, soft as puppies. All I had ever seen in horses were the looks of slaves. I could not induce my horses to stop, go or turn without food or force. Whatever this guy was doing, I wanted some of it!

I looked into his background and found that he had trained with Pat Parelli. Right then and there I knew I was going to do whatever it took to get the education and experience I needed to improve my horse/human relationship. First I bought some secondhand video material and joined the Savvy Club. After a few weeks I made a date for my Level 1 Assessment. I obtained it and found a wonderful Parelli instructor in my area. I was on my way. The next big decision came to spend as many weeks at the Parelli Center in Colorado as I could afford. I negotiated with my family and my job. My husband was supportive, as he had suffered collateral damage during the last decade of my horse experiences. It was agreed that I would go for four weeks. The real glitch came when I was in line for a very important promotion. I told my superiors in no uncertain terms that I would not accept the position if I had to cancel my Parelli experience in order to get the job. For a few days it was pins and needles, as this was a lucrative advance-

ment, but I was not going to be deterred. The first qualities of a good horseman are heart and desire, and I was lacking neither. My heart and desire made me strong and gave me a position of power, because I knew what I wanted. The bosses came back to me and said I could have the position and attend my scheduled Parelli courses! What a relief!

*It has been an emotional, physical and psychological experience that has produced more personal growth than a thousand therapists. Not that I needed that many therapists, of course.*

For the past four weeks I have been at the Parelli Center in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. It has been one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. My horse and I are more unified and connected. The communication is clearer, and the feelings of fear have been transformed to respect and understanding. It has been an emotional, physical and psychological experience that has produced more personal growth than a thousand therapists. Not that I needed that many therapists, of course.

Now, you may be saying to yourself, "I need that, but how am I going to afford it? How can I afford to take off that much time from work?" My answer to you is to look at what you have spent in time, money and emotion. Think of how, after your Parelli education, you will not ever have to pay with your soul again. Purchasing a Parelli course will save you money in the long run. You will require less professional supervision and thus be spending less money on a monthly basis.

After I began Parelli home study courses I saved \$4,000 in the first few months because I stopped *having* to take riding lessons. At \$60 a lesson three to four days a week—well, the arithmetic is simple. If you amortize the cost of one Parelli course over a year, you would be spending less a month than the cost of board and lessons combined. Parelli offers incentives for early course registration. If money is the issue, and it always is, please know that I have not given my old trainer one thin dime since I started Parelli. That adds up to \$8,000! This is not magic—it is simply the difference between wasting money and purchasing the quality you need. This does not include the money you have been spending on new trainers, new equipment and possibly new and "better" horses.

Stop blaming yourself. Stop blaming your horse. Stop blaming your trainer. Stop spinning your hooves and start living your dream. I have, and it is better than the dream. I never wake up, and every day is fun, safe, exciting, progressive and, of course, *natural!* 🐾

## 2010 COURSES



### Florida

#### 2-Week Courses:

|                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Horse Behavior and YOU</b>    | Feb 14-26                 |
| <b>Level 2 BREAKTHRU</b>         | Mar 14-26, November 14-26 |
| <b>Confidence TRANSFORMATION</b> | Apr 11-23                 |
| <b>Savvy "FINESSE"</b>           | Nov 28-Dec. 10            |

#### 4-Week Courses:

|                   |                                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fast-Track</b> | Feb 1-26, Mar. 1-26,<br>Mar 29-Apr. 23, Nov. 1-26 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|



### Australia

#### 2-Week Courses:

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Level 2 BREAKTHRU</b>         | Mar 1-12  |
| <b>Savvy "FINESSE"</b>           | Mar 15-26 |
| <b>Horse Behavior and YOU</b>    | Oct 4-15  |
| <b>Confidence TRANSFORMATION</b> | Oct 18-29 |



### Colorado

#### 2-Week Courses:

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Horse Behavior and YOU</b>    | Jun 13-25     |
| <b>Level 2 BREAKTHRU</b>         | Jul 11-23     |
| <b>Confidence TRANSFORMATION</b> | Aug 8-20      |
| <b>Savvy "FINESSE"</b>           | Aug 22-Sept 3 |

#### 4-Week Courses:

|                   |                                                           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fast-Track</b> | May 31-Jun 25, Jun 28-Jul 23,<br>Aug 2-27, Aug 30-Sept 24 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|



### United Kingdom

#### 2-Week Courses:

|                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Horse Behavior and YOU</b>    | May 10-21               |
| <b>Level 2 BREAKTHRU</b>         | May 24-Jun 4, Jul 19-30 |
| <b>Confidence TRANSFORMATION</b> | Jun 7-18                |
| <b>Savvy "FINESSE"</b>           | Jun 21-Jul 2, Aug 2-13  |

## 2009 COURSES



### Colorado and Florida

|                                                                                                      |                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Language of Horses</b><br>(On Line Levels 1&2)                                                    | CO: Sept 20-25<br>FL: Oct 18-23, Nov 1-6                           |
| <b>Natural Attraction to Liberty</b><br>(Liberty Levels 1&2)                                         | CO: Aug 23-28<br>FL: Oct 25-30                                     |
| <b>Confidence in Riding</b><br>(FreeStyle Levels 1&2)                                                | CO: Aug 30-Sept 4, Sept 6-11<br>FL: Nov 1-6, Nov 22-27, Nov 29-Dec |
| <b>Moving in Harmony</b><br>(Finesse Levels 2&3)                                                     | CO: Aug 16-21, Sept 13-18<br>FL: Nov 8-13, Dec 6-11                |
| <b>Advancing Communication</b><br>(On Line Levels 3&4)                                               | CO: Aug 23-28, Sept 20-25<br>FL: Nov 8-13, Nov 15-20               |
| <b>The Truth</b><br>(Liberty Levels 3&4)                                                             | CO: Aug 30-Sept 4<br>FL: Nov 15-20, Nov 22-27                      |
| <b>Riding with Purpose</b><br>(FreeStyle Levels 3&4)                                                 | CO: Aug 16-21, Sept 6-11<br>FL: Oct 25-30, Nov 29-Dec 4            |
| <b>Natural Performance</b><br>(Finesse Levels 3&4)                                                   | CO: Sept 13-18<br>FL: Oct 18-23, Dec 6-11                          |
| <b>"Getting To Know My Horse"</b><br>(Four Savvys in Levels 1 & 2)                                   | FL: Oct 18-Nov 13                                                  |
| <b>"I'm On My Way"</b><br>(On Line and Liberty Levels 3 & 4<br>+ Freestyle and Finesse Levels 1 & 2) | CO: Aug 23-Sept 18<br>FL: Nov 15-Dec 11                            |
| <b>"Masterclass"</b><br>(Four Savvys in Levels 3 & 4)                                                | CO: Aug 23-Sept 18<br>FL: Nov 15-Dec 11                            |
| <b>"Becoming A Horseman"</b><br>(Four Savvys in Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4)                                  | FL: Oct 18-Dec 11                                                  |



### Australia

|                                                              |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Natural Attraction to Liberty</b><br>(Liberty Levels 1&2) | Oct 4-9       |
| <b>Moving in Harmony</b><br>(Finesse Levels 2&3)             | Oct 11-16     |
| <b>Advancing Communication</b><br>(On Line Levels 3&4)       | Oct 18-23     |
| <b>The Truth</b><br>(Liberty Levels 3&4)                     | Oct 25-30     |
| <b>Riding with Purpose</b><br>(FreeStyle Levels 3&4)         | Nov 1-6       |
| <b>Natural Performance</b><br>(Finesse Levels 3&4)           | Nov 8-13      |
| <b>"Masterclass"</b><br>(Four Savvys in Levels 3 & 4)        | Oct 18-Nov 13 |



### United Kingdom

|                                                        |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Advancing Communication</b><br>(On Line Levels 3&4) | Aug 31-Sep 4        |
| <b>The Truth</b><br>(Liberty Levels 3&4)               | Aug 10-14           |
| <b>Riding with Purpose</b><br>(FreeStyle Levels 3&4)   | Aug 17-21, Sep 7-11 |
| <b>Natural Performance</b><br>(Finesse Levels 3&4)     | Aug 24-28           |

# My Sapphire: She's True Blue by Amy Book

*In February 2007 Pat told me that a local eventing barn in Ocala was sending a horse over for a two-week acceptance trial. Sapphire was an eventing horse with tons of talent, but they couldn't do anything with her. I love jumping, and though I'd heard she was pretty broken at that point and a little crazy, I was excited!*

I remember the day she came to the barn. They opened the trailer, and inside was a tiny chestnut mare, dripping with sweat from head to toe—and it was only a five-minute trailer ride. She was panic-stricken and wouldn't make eye contact. I looked at this itty-bitty thing with her long coat . . . dang, she looked ugly. I had expected a big eventing horse! They lead her into the barn, threw her in a stall and handed me the halter.

"Just so you know, there's no return policy on this horse. If you don't want her, do not bring her back." Apparently, when they would try to do things with her she would throw herself on the ground and even onto the pavement. Oh, dear! We had understood this was a two-week trial, but they made it clear. "We're done with her. This horse is insane."

***"Just so you know, there's no return policy on this horse. If you don't want her, do not bring her back."***

For the first week we allowed her to renaturalize. She had never run in a herd before, so we started introducing horses to her before turning her out. For one full week she did not stop her feet. She barely ate; she barely drank. She was always whinnying or pacing; totally not cool, just a crazy little nut.

For the first six weeks Parelli Professional Wally Gengschatz was at the Center, and he played with her. I had dismissed her because of her looks, but when I was able to really observe her, I saw the horse coming out. There was still hardly anything to look at, but I remember saying to someone, "I think that horse is special." They looked at me as if I were crazy.

When she finally came back to the barn, Pat allowed me to have her as a project horse. And it was one of those *aha* moments. The first time I really got to play with her, I immediately fell in love. She was a highly sensitive horse. Because she was so sensitive, many people had offended her. She'd gotten really mad about it. She

had some Right-Brain tendencies, but a lot of her behavior was Left-Brain tantrums. She was honestly mad about her situation; she didn't care about people and didn't want to be around them.

I learned quickly that she had a bizarre issue with jumping—she would canter up to a jump, start going over, then decide it was a bad idea, *stop* halfway over and go backwards. It didn't



courtesy photo



matter if the jump was big or small. She would just freeze halfway over and go backwards, sometimes even falling over backwards. I left jumping alone for a while!

*You're screaming at her. Just think canter.*

When we brought Sapphire to Colorado that summer I asked Linda for help, because we'd come so far on the ground and she was really opening up. What's cool about this horse is she gives you instant feedback—when she doesn't like something or doesn't like you, she lets you know immediately. But the opposite is equally true—if she really liked you, she put an *effort* into liking you. She was so expressive! And little by little she began giving her heart.

In the Finesse lessons with Linda we did a lot of work getting Sapphire to connect with me without negativity. When she first wore the bit she would gnaw on it and flip her head. If I put any pressure on her sides, she would kick out. So we spent a lot of time on the Friendly Game. I wasn't going to be aggressive with any of those things. Finally she began allowing that pressure to come on and responding to it appropriately.

In one of the lessons I had with Linda I was working on her canter, but she kept getting emotional. Linda had me sit down deep in the saddle, hold her in a frame and lift my energy. I would do it, and she would get mad and kick out. I couldn't figure it out. Linda said, "You're doing way too much in your body. You're screaming at her. Just think canter." So I *thought* canter. Ta-da! There was my canter. Suddenly a little happy pony appeared. "You want to go forward? Me, too!" By August she was solid Level 3 on the ground. She would follow me anywhere, stick with me from the pasture at Liberty and execute flying changes on the ground—anything I asked. She finally had a light in her eyes when she saw me.

One of our first achievements was at the 2007 Savvy Conference. I rode her while my sister Katie sang "Letting Go." That

was her first time in front of a crowd, and it was amazing how well she did. My sister's song exactly reflected Sapphire—she had been in her own little world, angry and hurt. As soon as those walls fell, we fell in love.

I was determined to figure out how to give her confidence in jumping. She wasn't stopping halfway over anymore, but her jump was really quick, with no relaxation to it, and she would run on the other side. I decided to back down to having her only walk over everything—and I mean *everything*. Every pole, every log, every little jump that was under 3' tall, we walked over it. I did a program seven days in a row. By day seven she could walk up to the picnic tables, jump them and walk calmly afterwards—oh, yes, this is a *very* athletic horse! I had to bring everything back down to basics to give her confidence. She learned how to use her body, but she also learned that if she didn't want to jump it—okay. We'd just walk away. It totally blew her mind that she had a choice.

Sapphire has turned into a truly beautiful horse; her outside now matches her inside. I believe emotions affect a horse's body, its coat, everything. She's completely changed! Of course, she got great help from the "Tooth Fairy," Spencer LaFlure, and Jim Crew, who put her biomechanics straight.

*I have never wanted a horse more than  
I wanted this horse.*

In March Linda presented at the Women LUV Horses event, and we were invited to ride. It was our first time in front of an audience since the Savvy Conference. The arena was very different, with lights that created huge shadows. I thought Sapphire was not going to be too happy in there but decided we would just get exposure and experience. We could go in and do nothing, and I'd be totally happy. Well, she shocked the heck out of me. I played with her On Line, and she was completely relaxed. We moved to Liberty, and she was sticking with me, doing beautiful circles. I went to riding and was even able to ride her over picnic tables—perfect jumping! I finished by riding bridleless. Her canter was perfect, smooth and relaxed.

I thought about the first day she came and how she couldn't be in a trailer for five minutes without feeling like she was going to die. And here she was—she not only trusted humans, but she liked them . . . she loved them. It was so emotional. When Linda introduced her and talked about how far she'd come, we both started crying.

I'm heading off on my own now as a 3-Star Parelli Professional Instructor and Horse Specialist. In preparation for my leaving I met with Pat and asked if I could buy Sapphire. I love horses, and I love the horse I have right now, but he was a gift to me.



I didn't pick him. With Sapphire—well, I have never wanted a horse more than I wanted this horse.

Pat asked, "What are you willing to give me for her?"

She had a set price, and I said, "Honestly, I think she's worth that. I think she's worth more than that."

Pat nodded, "Can you make payments?"

"Yes," I answered quickly.

"Can you make payments for the next twenty years?"

"Yes!" I jumped at it.

Pat nodded again, "Okay...give me zero dollars every month for the next twenty years."

Well, I just lost it. And I'm not a crying person! Pat started crying, too, because I'd told him that I knew this horse would be my teacher. He had Scamp as his teacher, and I knew Sapphire was my Scamp.

Pat always says, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear."

I guess I was ready, because this horse has definitely been my teacher. 🐾

### **Letting Go** by Katie Drake

*If you could see beyond these walls that I've erected  
You might see a heart that's longing to be loved*

*If you could just stay long enough to really know me  
I might just be ready to fall*

*Setting me free from all of my shame*

*Letting go of all of this pain*

*Break away from all that has kept me locked inside*

*I don't know the answers to all of life's questions*

*When my hands in yours I can take on the world*

*You see me through my trials conquer all my battles*

*You're my rock you're my everything*

*Come tear down these walls that*

*I've built around my heart*

*Now I've fought long enough*

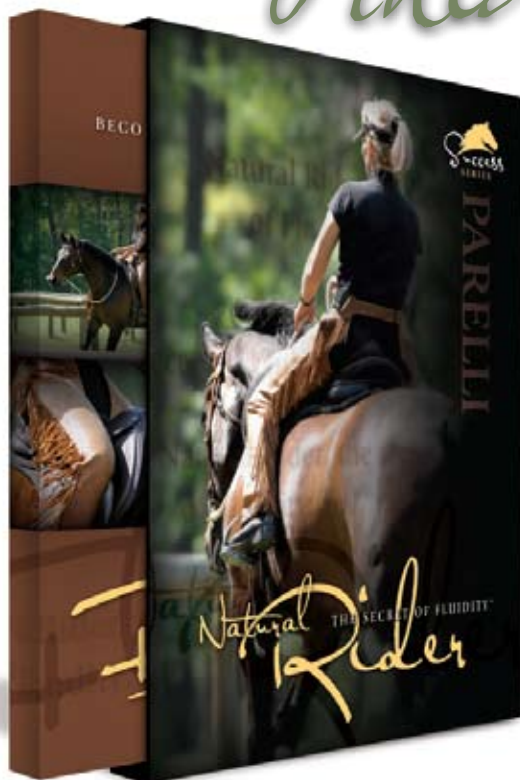
*And now I'm ready to fall*

*From the album "In Your Shoes"*

# Fluidity™ DVD

## Take away the mystery.

*Learn to ride fluidly, naturally  
and feel like you are part of your horse!*



*The Ultimate Way to Train Your Horse*



## Ginnysue Is a "Natural" Artist

When my friends and I attended the weekend-long Parelli Conference in Madison, WI last year we strolled by the exhibit of Parelli Awards by Ginnysue. I very much liked what I saw. I was thrilled to have met Linda Parelli at that time; I had an opportunity to speak with her briefly about my successes and accomplishment in the Level 1 program. I asked a friend if she'd take a picture of Linda and me, as I wanted to display my Level 1 certificate and the photo in a project I would soon ask Ginnysue to complete.

I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of my personalized Level 1 artwork! Ginnysue diligently worked with me over the telephone, through the mail and via email. It was easy to communicate my desired colors and frame color and to send items like the Level 1 certificate, the photo of Linda and me and other things I wanted to incorporate in the piece. We worked together very well, and the piece that came to fruition is magical. Whatever you want to incorporate in your artwork is easy working with Ginnysue. She was always very willing to work with me, and she is comfortable with her natural artistic talents. I am pleased to attach a picture of my framed artwork piece by Ginnysue.

My Parelli friends and I are on our way up to Madison tomorrow (June 5, 2009) for the Parelli Celebration this year. We can't wait. We never want to miss it when Linda and Pat come to town; we learn so much! If I get the special opportunity again to speak with Linda at this year's Celebration (my fingers are crossed), I plan on letting her know what a satisfied customer I am with my artwork done by Ginnysue of Parelli Awards by Ginnysue. — Connie Jackson



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For your personalized details and to place an order, Contact GinnySue at:  
Parelli Awards by GinnySue • 269-781-2564 • [awards@parelli.com](mailto:awards@parelli.com)

International orders welcome. Gift Certificates available. Visit us on the web at [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com).



# Third Time's the Charm— or Perhaps the Jewel!

## Stephanie Slavin's Parelli Journey by Norma Vela

*The small black Quarter horse had no idea that she was intended to be a little girl's dream horse. When she cow-kicked as the child approached to get on her back, she was immediately whisked back to the barn by worried parents. End of dream. Beginning of weeks of tears as ten-year-old Stephanie Slavin cried herself to sleep, believing she would never have another chance for a horse of her own.*

Years passed. Stephanie graduated from college and sought to realize her dream again. She impulsively focused on a "snorting, rearing, liver-chestnut mare that I had to have!" An absolutely "perfect" horse—so long as she had a 3" shank bit and curb chain as a "safety net." But Stephanie and Brandy were able to go down the trail together for ten years until career demands forced another apparent end to her horsemanship dreams.

For seventeen years Stephanie worked in high-pressure, high-powered businesses with fast cars, faster planes, helicopters and aggressive people. She developed more than one successful business and traveled all over the world; many would consider her life fabulous. But as time went on Stephanie began to notice that something big was missing. "Something about 1,200 pounds, to be precise," Stephanie says with a laugh. She longed for horses.

*At that point the dream of riding off into the sunset with her horse was absolutely over in Stephanie's mind. She had even decided to sell whatever her husband's black Tennessee Walker foaled.*

"Twice I got so horse-hungry that I advertised in the paper to exercise other people's horses; I had no fear and, blessedly, no bad experiences. Then, at forty-nine, when I was having lunch with a new acquaintance, she said she had to go to her horses after lunch. My heart leapt—did she need help?" Happily, she did, and Stephanie quickly found herself back in the saddle taking traditional dressage lessons with a borrowed Appendix Quarter horse. Within six months she had purchased a six-year-old "naturally trained" Saddlebred. And once again her dream turned into a nightmare.

Although Stephanie had seen Pat Parelli along with other "natural horsemanship" trainers at Equitana in Louisville in

1997, she had tried to mingle Pat's concepts into her own self-made soup of natural horsemanship studies. The result was more than three years of feeling like a failure. Nothing worked with her horse, and—five "natural horsemanship" trainers later—Stephanie sold the apparently unmanageable gelding in frustration and was ready to quit horses altogether.



courtesy photo

At that point the dream of riding off into the sunset with her horse was absolutely over in Stephanie's mind. She had even decided to sell whatever her husband's black Tennessee Walker foaled. But life had another idea for her. Stephanie's husband took one look at the gorgeous spotted foal and said, "You can forget selling that horse!" Stephanie's mother named the filly Crown Jewel, and it was this jewel of a horse that put Stephanie firmly on the Parelli horsemanship path.

She signed up for a weekend clinic with 5-Star Parelli Professional Carol Coppinger. "I had just received my Carrot Stick™, halter/lead rope and videotapes," she recalls, "and I was a disaster with the equipment. Carol had to take over Jewel to help me, and she asked how old Jewel was. I said two and a half, which I'd put on my application. Carol asked if she'd been ridden, and I emphatically said, "Yes!" "How many hours," she asked? "Ten," I said proudly. Carol patiently asked if Stephanie had another horse she could work with to learn the program and suggested that it was best to "bring your easy horse first."

"What's the point in that? My other horse already knows everything." (Let's all laugh *with* Stephanie, now, not *at* her! How many of us have been in this same frame of mind?)

***When Linda introduced the Fluidity riding concepts, I stopped my miserable dressage lessons and learned to ride again!***

Since that first clinic with Carol, Stephanie and her horses haven't stopped progressing. She's attended courses at the Parelli Study Centers, worked with Parelli-friendly trainers Karen Rohlf and Craig Johnson and continues to study with Carol Coppinger. These days eight-year-old Jewel is a sassy Left-Brain Extrovert/Introvert and a solid trail horse. "She is a challenge On Line once I get her energy up, a total Left-Brain Extrovert—bucks and bolts—so I've had to get really savvy to anticipate her every move; however, under saddle she is a Left-Brain Introvert, not wanting to move, so I've had to learn how



courtesy photo



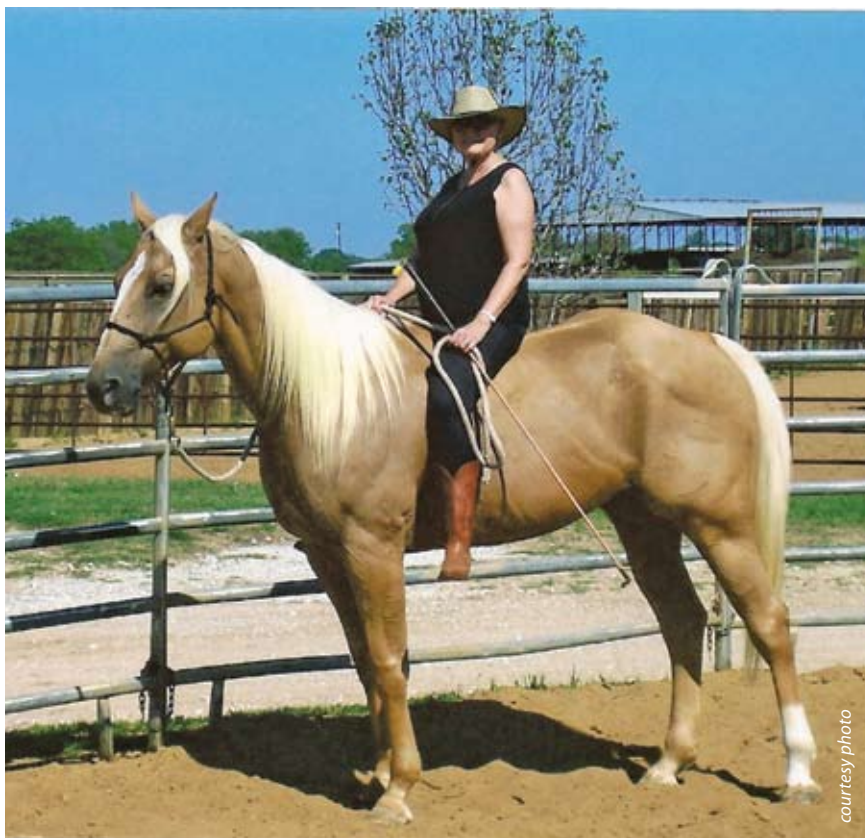
to interest her in going riding. Going on trails and to new places is her thing!

"Cricket is the twenty-eight-year-old Appendix that I had met the day I got back into riding in 1998. His owner gave him to me in 2001 because we had such great chemistry. When Linda introduced the Fluidity riding concepts, I stopped my miserable dressage lessons and learned to ride again! I've taken him to four Parelli clinics. He's a Left-Brain Extrovert ex-eventer who spent ten years in Olympic rider Denny Emerson's stable and competed in the 1978 and 1979 Rolex three-day events. I thought he was my fearless, perfect horse, but through Parelli I discovered he was tentative as a learner. When he tried for me and did marvelous things like backing through a gate, I saw the questions in his eyes. I melted, and we bonded. He is the *most* fantastic horse."

After seeing how joyful Stephanie had become in her new relationship with horses, her husband decided he wanted his dream horse, "a Palomino . . . but the horse was very nervous, so I have spent three years figuring out why. I loved building his confidence but saw that what I used with the other horses didn't work with him, especially trailer loading. Once I studied the Horsenality™ profiles I saw he was a Right-Brain Introvert, and that explained everything! I took him to the Parelli Study Center for a course and realized that since he was my husband's horse, I had an ambiguity about him. So I totally committed to building our relationship—spent hours on the mirror exercise—approach, retreat, all that. Everything changed between us, and when he stepped onto a pedestal for me there were tears in my eyes. I was so happy for him!

***I was always very task-oriented, but horses caused me to find my natural, authentic speed. I feel totally in harmony with myself now. Parelli has given me a phenomenal understanding of myself.***

"Parelli has given me so much. It has enabled me to heal my child's broken heart, have three rideable horses that go anywhere, anytime, and do it safely; I have had no accidents, no runaways, no injuries at all in the seven years I've been a student. The halters and my Fluidity saddle have given me security and total comfort. I've regained my 'natural' riding seat,



overcome a temporary fear I had and have had many hundreds of hours of *fun* playing with my horses! Before, I never knew that you could or *should* do that."

Studying Parelli has also affected her life aside from horses. With a new business that focuses on helping others excel and reach their highest goals, Stephanie has learned to slow her own internal pace, which had still been running at the fever pitch of the aggressive business world. "I was always very task-oriented, but horses caused me to find my natural, authentic speed. I feel totally in harmony with myself now. Parelli has given me a phenomenal understanding of myself." Stephanie feels she has a new degree of leadership that translates to her interactions with clients. "I can deal with high-speed, assertive, aggressive people, but I'm also happy to support and encourage low-confidence people, the Right-Brain Introverts. I had to learn that. Parelli has helped me to truly understand the other entity's point of view, horse or human."

With four wonderful horses, a new business venture ([www.quantumleapwealthcoach.com](http://www.quantumleapwealthcoach.com)) that combines all of Stephanie's talents for the first time, a recent honor from the international mentoring group Wildly Wealthy Women of Queensland, Australia, and being a contributing author to the newly published book *Inspired to Success*, Stephanie is truly living her dream. 🐾



# Junior Savvy

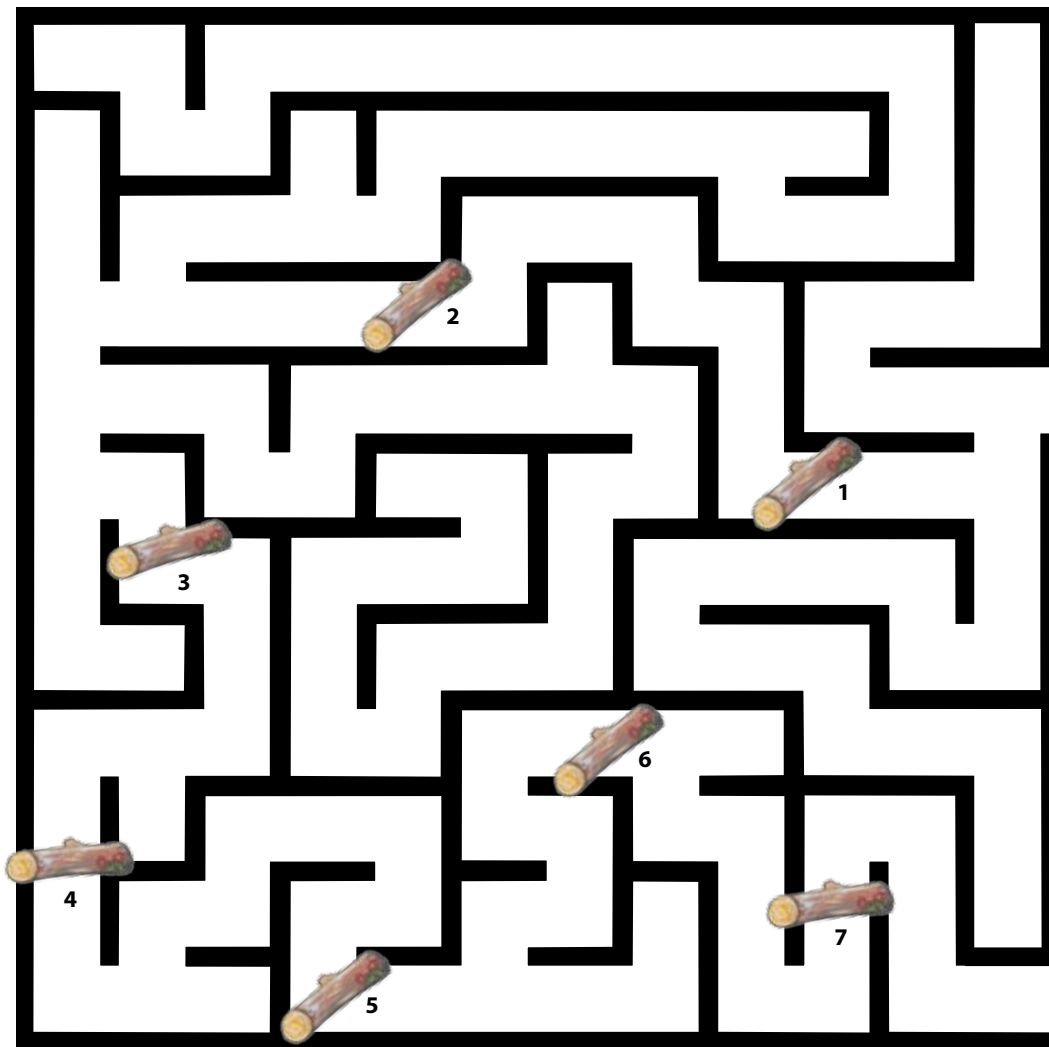
illustrations by Paula Ellenberger

## More fun and games with Elbie and Arbie

*Hi, kids. My sons Elbie (LB) and Arbie (RB) need your help to find me. There are seven logs in the maze.*

*At each log is a number that refers to a multiple-choice question on the opposite page. Jump the log and move forward by answering the question correctly so that my sons can pass through the maze to find me.*

**ASK YOUR PARENTS TO HELP YOU! If you need more help jumping the logs, do the bonus task!**



**Elbie and Arbie**



**Shazamm**



*Help us find our mom,  
Shazamm, by answering the questions  
below correctly so we can jump the logs and  
move forward in the maze!*

1. What is another name for the Friendly Game?

- a) The pressure game
- b) The confidence game
- c) The control game

2. Which of these things should you do before you play with your horse?

- a) Give your horse a bath.
- b) Catch your horse.
- c) Have your horse catch you.

3. What would help Arbie (RB) feel more confident?

- a) Retreat
- b) Rhythm
- c) Relaxation
- d) All of the above

4. What would help Elbie (LB) feel less bossy?

- a) Carrots
- b) Leadership
- c) Approach and retreat

5. What do good leaders always have?

- a) Their saddles
- b) Horse treats
- c) A plan

6. How do you tell which horse is the head of the herd?

- a) He or she is the first one to eat and drink.
- b) He or she makes the other horses move their feet.
- c) Both a and b

7. How do you know that your horse understands what you are asking?

- a) He scratches himself.
- b) She licks her lips.
- c) He swishes his tail.

#### **Bonus Task:**

(Do the Bonus Task so that Elbie and Arbie can jump all the logs to be with Shazaam)

Ask your parents to explain the Catching Game to you. Then play the game with your mom or dad to see how it works.

# Perspectives

## Too Proud to Get Off

### I don't care what others think anymore

Vicki Kenny, Auckland, New Zealand

My life is now divided into *pre-Parelli* and *now*, two years after starting the program. *Pre-Parelli* I was in the arena with an “experienced” rider on her dressage horse. Her new house was being built next to the arena, and a big truck pulled up. My horse’s head went up, and we froze in the corner. I wanted to get off, but the dressage rider was still just riding around, so I didn’t. Next the truck tipped a whole load of stones. At the same time a Bobcat (small digger) started up, and my horse bolted out of the arena with me. I landed on the gravel on the way out! *Now* as soon as he freezes like that—or even tenses—I get off!! I don’t care what others think anymore. My confidence is worth more than their comments.



### Parelli had given me the tools and the knowledge—I didn't use them

Kirsty Roefs, New York, U.S.

Eight days ago I was too proud to get off my horse. He tried telling me, and I refused to listen. My five-year-old Quarter Horse Jack and I have been working on our Level 2 Audition. After a long day of work, all I wanted to do was ride. It was the first really nice night after a long winter. Usually I play the Seven Games before riding. However, it was late, and I was impatient. While saddling him I realized he was off. He was raising his hind leg at me, and he was prancing around. In fact, I even said to my aunt, “You know, Linda Parelli would say that I shouldn’t get on this horse right now. He’s not safe to ride!” When I mounted him he walked away before I was seated. I knew better than to stay on that horse. My ego was saying, “But look how much you’ve ridden him. He’ll be fine!” It was fine for nearly twenty minutes. Then he started to crow hop. My reins were too long, and I couldn’t bend him. That’s when he bucked and I lost my seat completely. I’ve never felt such horrible pain. My back is broken in four places, and



I’m extremely disappointed in myself. Parelli had given me the tools and the knowledge, and I didn’t use them. I’ve learned to listen to my horse as I expect him to listen to me. I will be able to walk again, but it’s going to be a long road to recovery. Being too proud to get off has caused me to be fearful of riding Jack again. Thank you for sending this question, as it has come at the most fortunate time for me. Today I’ve sat and really thought about my goals, my dream and my mistakes.

### Getting off your horse is the brave thing to do

Taylor Sanders, Texas, U.S.

Before beginning the Parelli Natural Horsemanship journey I was a competitive hunter-jumper rider. I had just retired my wonderful American Paint mare. I never had a problem with her; we were partners. But that all ended when I bought my new horse, Ben, a 17.1h.h. gelding. He was the second horse I had ever purchased. I found out later that he had been drugged, and I was lied to (I was fourteen years old). This horse was a Right-Brain Introvert with all the trimmings. Ben was not a horse for a child—even one that had been riding since she was five years old. Every time I rode Ben I was scared—scared of what he would do, scared that he wouldn’t stop, and scared that I was going to get hurt. Of course, my trainers were pushing me to ride every day of the week and had little sympathy for my problem. Getting off my horse was a problem for my trainers. It was almost a sign of giving up, quitting. Well, I wasn’t a quitter, was I? I wasn’t too proud to get off my horse; I was too much of a people pleaser. I never was encouraged to think about *my* safety or the horse’s, only about finishing the lesson. When I rode Ben he was a Right-Brain Introvert. Then he would explode. He would gallop around in circles, and you couldn’t stop him with a wall of concrete. My confidence with horses turned into fear very quickly. I hated what I used to love. If I had only known then that is okay to get off! Getting off your horse is the *brave* thing to do. Even better, don’t get on a horse that is Right-Brain! I don’t ever have to regret anything I do with horses anymore. I know what to do before what happens happens. The only things I learned with





my normal trainer were to be afraid of riding my horse and to ignore problems. That never worked. When I finally found Parelli, all my questions were answered! I started to have fun again and grew in confidence. The best day of my life was when I received my red string for my Level 1, better than any ribbon or belt buckle I had ever won.

### When in doubt, get off!

Tracy Hawthorne, Florida, U.S.

I carry a permanent reminder of what happens when we choose to ignore Parelli principles and abdicate our leadership. The ring and middle fingers of my left hand will neither completely close nor open after a trail riding incident with my mule Dinky. A bad situation often has its origins in a series of seemingly inconsequential poor decisions. It started with deciding to go trail riding alone. This left Dinky, a Right-Brain Introvert, feeling tense and insecure. Recognizing his unconfident state as I saddled, I continued to be direct line in my thinking and ignored his need to be helped into a calm frame of mind. We set off down the trail and encountered a section where extensive tree cutting had left the trail looking very different (and very scary) to Dinky. As I felt him tensing and his head rising I chose to gather his attention and focus back on me by asking him to execute a series of maneuvers. Within one minute I felt Dinky relax and give me his focus. As he settled I again headed down the spooky trail with a casual rein draped over just my ring and middle fingers. Within seconds Dinky began to tense again and began to feel like a ticking bomb. Did I get off? Did I regain Dinky's focus as I had previously? *No*. I thought to myself, "If I just stay relaxed, he'll relax." Dinky held it together for about fifteen more seconds. Lacking any leadership from me, he made his best decision and chose to leave suddenly and explosively. There I was, lying in the dirt, Dinky a few yards away (his flight distance is about 20'), looking at me with a glance that said, "I told you I was leaving . . . why didn't you come, too?" Looking at my throbbing fingers, I slipped off my wedding ring, gathered the mecate and headed back to the trailer on foot. Dink calmly following me along the trail. How interesting that Dinky was unconfident with me on his back in this area but much more comfortable now that I was on the ground!

What lessons did I learn? Never trail ride alone. Remember your preflight checks. Don't get on until your partner is in a



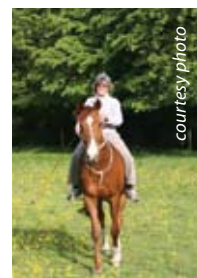
courtesy photo

calm frame of mind. Be mentally flexible; be willing to alter your plan if your partner needs help. Horse-man-ship is all about the 51:49% partnership. When in doubt, *get off!*

### I've learned to honor and listen to myself

Joan Henriques, Suffolk, U.K.

Pre-Parelli, my new horse, Boris, lived somewhere with experienced riders, and part of me wanted to impress them. Soon I dreaded Saturdays (trail riding days) when I woke up anxious and thinking, *Today I might die*. On the trail, when Boris got strong and bucked I'd sometimes come off. Shaking and sore, I'd get on my feet, but riding was the thing, and good riders got back on. I wasn't enjoying living in the fast lane, and somewhere down the line I became an avoidaholic of trail rides, the riders and more. Fast forward to Parelli and huge relief in learning. I impress myself by getting off Boris way before the fear arises. Those early days took their toll—I almost gave up—but with Parelli I've learned to honor and listen to myself. And when I'm in synch with Boris, it's good to be alive!



courtesy photo

### It just never occurred to me that it would help my horse!

Joy Cox, Florida, U.S.

Toward the end of a two-week course in Pagosa Springs our instructor, Helen, took all of us up to the Big Top arena for some indoor exercises. I was riding my then three-year-old Arabian filly that had been under saddle for about four months. As we approached the arena she began to get more and more agitated. Once in the arena she could not stand still, and the longer we were in there, the worse she got. It *never occurred* to me to get off of her. All my life I had been used to just riding my horse through whatever it was that was going on. Finally Helen said to me, "If I were you, I would get off of her right now and do something to get her attention." As I got off Helen directed me to do some Falling Leaf patterns with her until she settled a bit. After a short while I remounted and got through the exercise (with the help of a buddy horse and rider). It was not pretty, but she did it, and I learned a valuable lesson. Although it was not pride that prevented me from getting off, *it just never occurred to me* that was what I was supposed to do to help my horse. Since then I have always gotten off when my horse got worried because she lacked the confidence to do what I was asking. It always helps her, and in helping her it has helped me.



courtesy photo

*"I only use and recommend professional grade because horsemanship is my art."*  
—Pat Parelli

*I began making my own "natural" equipment in the early 1980s because most horse-training gear is designed for restraint and force rather than teaching. It promotes predatory hard, quick hands—the opposite of what a sensitive prey animal needs.*

*All my ropes, reins, halters and sticks have been developed to improve the flow in your handling skills and communication with horses.*

*It all supports what I need to teach you about "feel": hands that close slowly and open quickly... it's the release that teaches and the drift that builds confidence.*

**Professional Grade Equipment available at [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com)**

**Horseman's Halter • 12-foot Line • 22-foot Line • 45-foot Line • 6-foot String  
Carrot Stick™ • Horseman's Reins • Finesse Reins • Cradle Bridle • Bareback Pad**

*Professional Grade*

# *Education* WITH PAT





# Dealing with Confinement

by Pat Parelli

*Horses are born skeptics, cowards, panic-aholics and claustrophobics by nature to varying degrees.*

*When considering the subject of confinement for prey animals, you must take into account each horse's individual Horsenality™, which is based on a combination of innate characteristics, learned behavior, environment and spirit.*

Horses are a precocial species, meaning they are full-faculty learners from birth. They have fully developed brains, so their ability to learn is hugely accelerated at an early age.

Here's my point concerning horses living in confinement: I have seen horses that are used to being confined at early age—they were born in a mare motel and moved immediately into a box stall—so that's all they know. Just as some city folks might think being in the country is a scary thing and country folk might think being in the city is scary, horses fear the unknown. The environmental influences—what they've known from birth—are what they're going to be comfortable with. So before we make living in a box stall into the monster, let me just say, "It all depends . . ."

As I think about confinement with horses, I try to adjust to fit the situation and take *everything* into consideration—what has been this horse's experience, what's his spirit level, what are the chances of him settling in and being calm—and I do that with the highest degree of integrity. I want to be sure I've really prepared the horse for being left alone in the stall or anything similar.

***As herd animals, horses bond as a matter of survival and need to know where their safety partner is.***

Remember that horses, being prey animals, are herd animals, and they base a large part of their sense of safety upon being with the herd, whatever that herd consists of. I've seen



racehorses provided with a placebo herd mate like a goat, a chicken, a dog; I've even seen a groom live in a stall near a nervous horse, and the horse will bond with him. As herd animals, horses bond as a matter of survival and need to know where their safety partner is.

***When you separate and confine a horse, the potential for emotional duress is high, so your horse really needs you to give him what he's missing—the bond, the social interaction, the play and the exercise—mentally, emotionally and physically speaking.***

It's been proven over the years that horses living in tie stalls had fewer stall vices than horses living in 12 x 12 box stalls. Dr. Robert Miller speculated that the difference was that in tie stalls the horses were all facing the same direction as they would in a herd, whereas in box stalls the horses were free to move about and face different directions—this one facing north, another one west. Horses are so sensitive that it will bother some of them. They lose their polarity; they aren't sure which direction they should be facing in case of attack. In many ways they are like a school of fish. Next time you watch a National Geographic or Animal Planet program featuring fish, take note of this and realize that much of what you are seeing also applies to horses!

Along with providing a herd mate of some kind, we can increase the amount of undemanding time we dedicate to our horse. Hanging out and getting a good scratch are extremely comforting. Remember that a horse not accustomed to confinement might change his behavior; nervousness and claustrophobia can turn a horse Right-Brain squickly. Alternate undemanding time with a little horseplay—ten minutes spent improving your Porcupine Game by asking your horse to put just one foot here and then there can keep your horse relaxed by keeping his mind engaged. Meals can be smaller and more frequent, or you can have good grass hay always available. You'll probably want to cut down on grain if your horse has been accustomed to more activity.

If a horse is being confined for medical reasons but you can still take him for walks, be sure the walk

is interesting. Use the Seven Games to give his mind and his feet a job—speed up, slow down, stop, back up, go sideways. Of course, health issues (if lameness is involved) dictate how much your horse can do.

If I'm bringing a horse into confinement, I generally use a process of progressive confidence building. I'll bring along one of his pasture mates and put the two in stalls or corrals next to each other. Over a period of a few days I'll slowly move one about a stall away, then two, and so on. If I have a horse that is accustomed to living in confinement and I'm moving him out to pasture, I'll do the reverse: place a future herd mate several stalls away and slowly move them closer together until they can comfortably be next to each other. Watch for your horse's reaction to the change in his environment and make adjustments to keep him comfortable. The most important point to remember with horses is: It all depends.

In closing, remember that horses are herd animals, and they pair-bond strongly with one another. When you separate and confine a horse, the potential for emotional duress is high, so your horse really needs you to give him what he's missing—the bond, the social interaction, the play and the exercise—mentally, emotionally and physically speaking. The Seven Games and Parelli Patterns are ideal for this.

Your horse needs to get out every day (unless he is injured, of course), and this is your responsibility. You have to do it or make sure you can entrust someone you board with to do it. As his partner, you have the responsibility to care for his mental health and well-being in every way you can. 🐾



# Mules and Donkeys

## You Have to Treat a Mule the Way You Should Treat a Horse!

by Pat Parelli

*Mules have taught me to be a horseman—a real horseman—and more so. And I'd have to say that founding the American Mule Association is one of my proudest accomplishments. I created the American Mule Association because I became interested in mules from a training perspective.*



Jena and Kokomo

I thought if I could learn the secrets of training mules, it would accelerate my education as a horseman. In fact, donkeys and mules are the first animals that taught me to think of looking at equids as individuals, and thus the original concept of Horsenality™ was born.

More than anything, I learned that you have to treat a mule as you should treat a horse. In this article I want to share my savvy on mules and donkeys so you understand more about their nature.

Donkeys are mountain animals, and horses are plains animals. So horses react (run) and then think, whereas donkeys

think and then react. When a donkey gets scared, it acts like an introvert and tends to freeze, then creep off. But when a mule gets scared, he does move his feet. What would a donkey do if it could run? It would behave like a mule. I find that this is one of the first things that people discover when they play with their mules.

When it comes to donkeys, I find the biggest challenge for students is their expectation that a donkey is going to be as exuberant as a horse. Donkeys could almost be classified as draft animals. They are very, very strong and have a lot of torque per ounce of muscle fiber.



Mules have what is called hybrid vigor. As they are half donkey and half horse, they often get combined and synergistic attributes of both species. Mules typically have the physical characteristics of a horse with the mental and emotional characteristics of the donkey.

*The Liberty and FreeStyle Savvys are particularly important. You don't ever want to teach a mule to pull on a lead rope or pull on the reins.*

When I say mules are like horses, only more so, what I'm saying is that if a mule develops a trust, a bond, and a relationship with a person, it will do so more than a horse would. However, the same thing goes for a mule that is skeptical and untrusting of humans—a mule will be that way, only more so. Often, the biggest challenge that people have with mules is that they look like horses but act like donkeys. So people tend to assume that a mule will act like a horse, but then it doesn't. And most people don't realize that a horse doesn't forget, but often forgives. But, a mule doesn't forget and is much less forgiving. The baggage that a mule can carry from its past is usually the biggest challenge that a student will face. Mules are quicker to learn and slower to unlearn something good, bad, or otherwise.

When developing your mule's foundation, the Liberty and FreeStyle Savvys are particularly important. You don't ever want to teach a mule to pull on a lead rope or pull on the reins. You want to do a lot of Liberty until the mule wants to be with you, and you want to ride a lot of FreeStyle in arenas until the mule really connects with you in the saddle. Every mule has its own Mulenality. Some mules will have more of the mentality of a donkey, and those animals are very good pack animals; the mules that act more like horses are often the better animals for performance such as racing, roping, reining, cow work, jumping, dressage, etc.

With both donkeys and mules, it is especially important that you put the relationship first in such a way that they want to come to you and be with you. They tend to act more introverted, so a lot of times we don't think that they are bothered or scared when they really are. So the most important thing is realizing that you need to build the relationship and trust first, as we should do with horses. 🐾



"It seems that it is often the tiniest things that make the biggest impact on our relationship (not the big things). Waiting for him to put his nose down into the halter instead of just throwing it on his head (because I/we have things to do, don't you know?); waiting as long as it takes for that lick and chew; waiting for him to come to me in the pasture; making sure to acknowledge his gestures of partnership; noting the slightest discomfort on his part (a twitch?) when I am doing things with him (e.g., saddling); recognizing a teeny try on his part. I get it: You must see and acknowledge and respect the small things before you can accomplish or ask for the big things. Duh." —JL, TN

# Pat's Journey

## Audition Your Savvy!

by Pat Parelli

*Over the years of working with the hundreds of thousands of students in our program, we've learned a few things. Learning leads to growth, and growth leads to change, which is why we've improved our evaluation system and implemented our new Audition process for the first four Levels of natural horsemanship mastery.*

We quickly learned to group people in clinics, in classes and in courses to offer them motivation, support and challenges to their growth, but we also knew that one of the most important elements in being able to make serious, rapid progress is the ability to measure results. When you can get two steps today, four steps tomorrow and sixteen steps next week, you know you've made progress. But if you weren't counting, if you weren't assessing and understanding where you were yesterday compared to where you are today, you might not notice how far you'd come. We tried to give our students a structured way to measure their growth; that was the idea behind the original levels assessments. This gave our students a way to see their progress in real, measurable terms.

With our assessments, there were lists of tasks to accomplish. Using that list, we offered a pathway by which to make and measure progress. For the most part, that is what happened. But good, better, best, we never let it rest! We noticed that many students filmed their tasks at different stages, getting one task this week, another task next week, a few more tasks next year to edit in with the tasks done last year! We saw a pattern that told us this system wasn't being effective in helping our students to develop and become more specific about what they were able to do today, anywhere, anytime. We were seeing a lot of "Quick—catch it on video!" rather than having the tasks be part of a program of development. This isn't to say that students weren't doing great things with their horses;

The image displays four overlapping forms titled "Parelli Auditions 2009". Each form is designed for a different level of assessment: "On Line", "Liberty", "FreeStyle", and "Finesse". Each form includes a header with the Parelli logo and the title, followed by fields for "Name", "Horse", "Savvy Club #", and "Date". Below the header, each form has a "Relationship" section with a list of skills (Expression, Respect, Impulse, Flexion, Observe, Technical, Awareness, Obedience, Endurance, Acrobatic Skills) and a "Savvy" section with a list of skills (Familiarity, Patience, Obedience, No No, Caring, Leadership, Success). Each form also has an "Overall Feel" section with a list of skills (Focus, Feet, Timing, Balance). The forms are designed to be filled out by a student or instructor to track progress over time.

| Relationship     | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Expression       |         |         |         |         |
| Respect          |         |         |         |         |
| Impulse          |         |         |         |         |
| Flexion          |         |         |         |         |
| Observe          |         |         |         |         |
| Technical        |         |         |         |         |
| Awareness        |         |         |         |         |
| Obedience        |         |         |         |         |
| Endurance        |         |         |         |         |
| Acrobatic Skills |         |         |         |         |
| Savvy            |         |         |         |         |
| Familiarity      |         |         |         |         |
| Patience         |         |         |         |         |
| Obedience        |         |         |         |         |
| No No            |         |         |         |         |
| Caring           |         |         |         |         |
| Leadership       |         |         |         |         |
| Success          |         |         |         |         |
| Overall Feel     |         |         |         |         |
| Focus            |         |         |         |         |
| Feet             |         |         |         |         |
| Timing           |         |         |         |         |
| Balance          |         |         |         |         |

it just meant that the evaluation system needed improving. We also knew there were a lot of students who had given up trying to officially assess because the process had become too hard and not much fun. We had to find a way to help people get unstuck in the Levels, which is still the most revolutionary and effective horsemanship measurement tool in the world.

This is why we developed the new Audition process. It's got a whole new energy and psychology. Think about it: Auditions bring out the fun, the showoff in most folks, whereas tests often bring out a stress response. With tests there's a pass-or-fail element. With Auditions you *can't* fail—you just get a result!

*Savvy means knowing things by heart, having the skill and experience to know when to be, why to be, where to be and what to do when you get there.*

We want students to understand that savvy is something you *become*. Savvy means knowing things by heart, having the skill and experience to know when to be, why to be, where to be and what to do when you get there. Ability is another word for savvy. We want our students to see exactly where they stand in their progress so they can grow and develop at a much better rate. More importantly, I want to give each student the empowerment of transformation from a normal horse lover to a natural horseman—that's our ultimate goal. That's who you have to become for a horse to truly enjoy being yours!

Our new Self-Assessments, combined with the Audition process, give students a framework so they have the confidence of a structure with the freedom to do whatever comes to mind—to reveal their creativity and imagination, to show off a little in the video Audition! Also, since the Auditions are submitted one Savvy at a time, it allows them to focus and really dig deep to build powerful relationships with their horses while keeping a balance between ground skills and riding. And if they don't ride, there's a way to be recognized, too!

The proof is in the results, and what we're seeing already is that our students have learned how to have great relationships with their horses. They've developed tremendous imagination and skill. We've had a huge number of students submit Auditions for every Level and every Savvy—over a thousand since we launched the concept in February, 2009!

The enthusiasm and excitement in every video (DVD or YouTube clip) has been contagious. The instructors being trained to grade the Auditions are as inspired as the students; doing the evaluations has even become fun! "Show us your Savvy" is the key, except for a few compulsories and guidelines; the rest is up to the student. What we're also seeing is that many of our

students are achieving a level higher than they expected—nearly 20% of them scored as much as a level and a half higher.

Our students have proven that they are far more savvy than our previous testing process was allowing them to reveal. So no more checking off a task list—use the Success Series for the overall concepts and the Parelli Patterns to create a daily program by which to ensure your progress; use the Self-Assessment to check your progress; use the Savvy Club Vault to research your needs; and submit an Audition to see the results—and that's *real Savvy*. 🐾

### Re-Inspired

My Audition experience was incredibly positive. I have been doing Parelli since 2000 and was very heavily involved, with the exception of the last three years. Life had taken a turn, and my journey was stagnant. Other things in daily life had taken over, pulling me away from my horsemanship dreams. Once I got the word that the Auditions were free and that the program was changing again, my world did a 180-degree turn. Instead of just seeing my horses every day and doing the basics and chores, I went out and actually *played* with my horses in a way I hadn't done in a long time. My horses were so thankful to be playing more provocatively and learning new things! It revitalized my relationship with my boys and made my dreams come back. My horses were ready to audition, and I didn't even know it until I decided to try. We passed Level 2++ both On Line and FreeStyle, and now my focus is on completing Level 3 and eventually Level 4. I am now making and taking the time for my horses the way I did before life took over. I feel complete again. Thank you for re-inspiring me.

Sincerely, Rachael  
Brouette, Royal  
and Elessar





# HOW TO *avoid boring* YOUR HORSE AND MAKE *rapid progress.*

## Kit features:

Natural Collection DVD,  
Lead Changes DVD,  
Finesse Patterns and  
Complete Cradle Bridle.



## GET THE FINESSE\* STARTER KIT:

Riding with Finesse is one of the most challenging things to do well. Horses are naturally claustrophobic, so building contact and collection needs to be a careful process. You'll get the info, and the plan, now put it into action: Find your Finesse Kit on [parelli.com](http://parelli.com)

*\* See also the new On Line, Liberty and FreeStyle kits!*

### 2 Essential DVDs

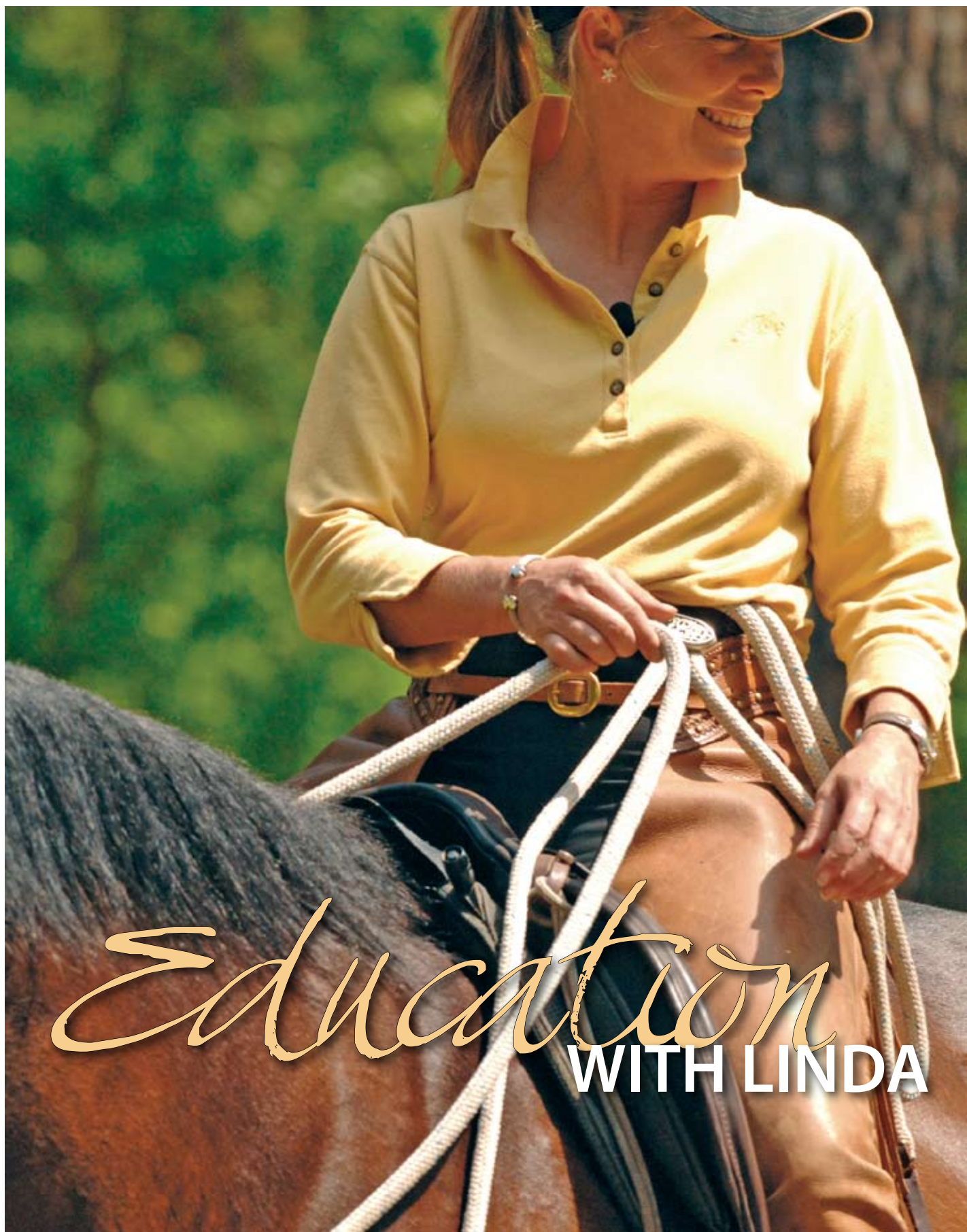
1. Learn the Finesse Formula with Natural Collection
2. Discover the Lead Change Ladder with Natural Lead Changes

### The Parelli Patterns

Constructive and fun exercises for your horse. These Patterns are Pat Parelli's blueprint for developing a solid foundation on his horses because they exercise a horse mentally, emotionally and physically. It's your road map to success, plus it automatically and naturally brings out the leader in you.

*"The first thing I check when I ride a horse is if he knows what I'm asking him to do. If I put him on a circle, does he know it's a circle or do I have to micromanage him? If I head him towards something, is he looking for what this is? If I go towards an obstacle, is jumping it the only think he's thinking about? I don't like horses to be mindless puppets, I want them mentally, emotionally and physically involved as my partner. How I do this is through patterns." —Pat Parelli*

# *rapid progress*



# *Education* WITH LINDA



# Q & A

## A Trailer Loading Dilemma

**Q:** *I have an 8-year-old Right-Brain Introvert/Extrovert mare. Her past behaviors include pacing, freezing, bolting and extreme anxiety when left by herself. Her confidence has progressed with the Seven Games.*

*I am having trouble breaking the trailer experience into baby steps. She loads with the lead rope over her back but has trouble when I close the stall partition and trailer door.*

*I am trying to help her remain confident over longer periods of time and take her on an actual trailer ride. Sometimes her body language begins showing anxiety in five to ten minutes. I have difficulty timing the release. If I unload her, she will reload but not stay in.*

*Many people say, "Get the trailer moving, and she'll settle while trying to stay balanced." Others suggest moving the trailer in small increments and unloading her on her home turf.*

*How should I proceed? Just being by herself causes her angst, and she has issues with claustrophobia, which is most likely the root of the problem. I'm a Level 3 student, but my imagination has left me. —Sharon W., NC*

**A:** What you have described is seriously claustrophobic behavior. I commend you for bringing her this far, but there is more to do.

**1. Do more simulations** with her to build her confidence and lower claustrophobic tendencies. Practice the pull-back\* remedy until she will not lean against or drag on the rope and stands calmly when you shake the flag, etc. It teaches a horse to be Left-Brain in a claustrophobic situation. It's a great simulation and can have an effect on other situations that involve claustrophobia.

*\*Savvy Club Vault—enter "pull back"*

- Teach her to stand tied for up to six hours. As you gradually get her up to that point she will learn to be patient. It's actually more than that—it helps horses learn it's okay to be in a tied situation and not feel threatened. Pat ties his horses for hours every day to prepare them for things such as long hauls in the trailer and to realize that tying does not mean death.

**2. Load her into a stock trailer** so she can move around. If you saw the January DVD on trailer loading, that's the style of the first one Pat was using. These tend to be less threatening for

horses because when you shut the gate they can still move, and it lessens the stress more quickly.

In extreme situations Pat recommends using the trailer like a stall and feeding and watering your horse in there so the horse sees it as a home rather than a dangerous cave. As with tying, build up to where you can keep her in there overnight. In every situation leading up to that, don't open the door until she is calm. Having said that, if you close the door before she is ready, it won't be pretty. You need to know that you've done adequate preparation before you close the door.

**3. Move away from the trailer** and do something else when she refuses to get back in. Sometimes when you just stay there you hit a threshold and the horse's mind locks up, so it will take force to make her move.

Instead of resorting to that, take her away, then back to the trailer, and do other things with the trailer instead of trying to load her. Put Zone 3 against different parts of the trailer, Zone 4, Zone 5—do anything but load.

This brings up your leadership and overcomes the fear in the horse much better than if you try to load her directly. Once she's calm and willing again you can ask her in, then her off again. Just ask her out before she thinks of it!

This is about preparation. When you grasp this, you will be less concerned about loading her. In the back of your mind you may be tense and worried about future trailering, so you are not 100% present in the moment. You are not concerned about her confidence and trust, so it feels unsafe.

**4. Wait longer.** When she's hard to load, wait; don't try to load her. You're waiting for the brace in her mind to leave and for her to start breathing again. And when she does, retreat. Walk away from the trailer, do something else and come back when she's calm.

This is the Touch It Pattern—you wait until she can sniff it and then put her feet on it of her own accord without your asking her to do it. She'll do it out of curiosity rather than obedience. Right-Brain Introverts try to be obedient, and that's why sometimes you don't realize that they are afraid inside.

Prepare her to have a calm mind every time she gets near the trailer. The comfort-discomfort model of running her



around and then giving her rest by the trailer is hard to do successfully with an introvert because introverts don't want to move their feet.

**5. Shut the door in stages.** Do a lot of swinging of the door while she is in there—opening and partially closing repeatedly with predictable rhythm, as required in the Friendly Game (rhythm, relaxation, approach and retreat). Close the door only when there is no reaction. No sneaking! Do it openly and obviously, and if your horse needs to get out, allow her to do so. Reload her as many times as it takes and then start the Friendly Game with the door again.

**6. Extreme Friendly Game.** Teach her not to worry if she hears noises when in the trailer. Start by rubbing and tapping the trailer with your Carrot Stick™. Desensitization begins this way and ends with her standing inside (not tied, no butt bar) and you tapping on the ramp, sides, roof, rattling the divisions, etc. You can start this in other areas, not just at the trailer. The goal is to prove to her that none of this is threatening. It will build her self-confidence and confidence in new or unfamiliar environments (such as the trailer).

**7. Teach her to yield from the butt bar.**

- Put a 22-foot Line behind her and teach her to move forward when you apply pressure. If she goes backwards or runs around, keep the pressure the same—do not increase it or let it off (unless she panics, of course, in which case you release instantly). This will help with her claustrophobic issues and prepare her to move forward off the butt bar instead of trying to break through it.
- Once she's in the trailer, simulate the butt bar with a Savvy String that's tied on one side and wrapped on the other. It can provide some resistance but still slide and open up if she tries to come through. Put a little pressure on the lead rope to ask her to come backwards and feel the rope. Instead of pushing on it, she should yield and move forward. This is something to do over and over until it is a habit and she can think her way through it instead of panicking. The more times she comes through it, the less panicky she'll be, and she'll be able to stand in there. Repeat the failures until your horse is no longer scared.

**8. Drive.** By the time you have completed steps 1–7 you will have a much

more confident horse and most likely be ready to move the trailer once she's inside. There are two things to do once your horse is confidently standing inside and you want to start driving.

- Baby steps: Drive a few feet and then stop and wait until she's calm. This could take a while! When she's calm, unload her.
- Repeat this a few times.
- Finally, go around the block, then on a 30-minute drive, then go for an hour or two. Then it won't matter how long you want to drive.

If the preparation has been adequate, the problems will be slight or completely gone. Could you just slam the door and go? Yes, of course. But you'll pay for that. If your model is Love, Language and Leadership, you'll take the time it takes to make sure that you and your horse are properly prepared.

Put the relationship first; do it with love in your heart. Think about this as if it were you.

When you don't have the skills of Pat Parelli or someone that's Level 5/6, it will take more time to reach the goal—but having the discipline to work toward this goal will be a great step in healing your horse.

It's not about the trailer; it's about how much more confident you have to help her be before you can ask her to trust your request to go in and take a ride. What will it take to help your horse be safe? The Parelli program gives you the keys. You need to supply commitment and patience as you learn to be who she needs you to be.

—Linda 🐾



# Bribe vs. Bonus

with Linda Parelli

**It's not about the treat! *How* you use it makes the difference between a bribe and a bonus, it's all about how your horse perceives it. Since the release of the Horsenality™ model we've had thousands of students say "Thank you!" for making treats "legal"—and, as you can imagine, we've also endured some criticism for turning people into treat-aholics and bribing their horses into doing everything!**

**So to treat or not to treat . . . that is the question.**

About two years ago I was approached by a man at one of our tour events who said he agreed with everything Pat did *except* the use of treats. As it happened, this was one of the very few times that the demo problem horse at the event was a Left-Brain Introvert, so Pat did exactly what he's taught all of us to do—to figure out the psychological key for that horse. This lovely Quarter Horse gelding, who had zero interest in anything a human asked him to do, did not want to go forward. So Pat strategically planted Winnies Cookies around the arena—on the ball, the tarp, the barrel—and of course, the result was fantastic.\*

But still this man disagreed with the use of treats. How interesting!

After he told me his opinion he went on to tell me about a horse he was having terrible trouble with. You guessed it—he described a Left-Brain Introvert! I told him that he was going

to have to get over his "rule" about treats, and his horse was going to teach him about that!

He didn't like my answer. Most people don't want to hear the truth—especially if it means changing their attitude or gaining more knowledge. They would rather get some gadget, trick or technique to use and do the quick fix. Well, students pursuing savvy know that's not the answer.

***Treats do not make a horse calm, they don't increase trust, they don't replace play, but they do give incentive.***

The problem with having rules is that horses quickly figure out your limits and then use them against you—especially Left-Brain horses, because they are thinkers and are constantly engaged with you in a mental battle for supremacy.



It's kind of interesting that you don't really notice this until you ask your Left-Brain, confident and complacent horse to do something he doesn't want to do! It reminds me of a joke I heard more than twenty years ago:

*A thirty-five-year-old mute who still lived at home with his parents was sitting at the dinner table. He suddenly looked up and said, "Can you please pass the salt?" His mother and father about fell on the floor.*

*"Son! This is a miracle! We thought you couldn't speak!"*

*"Well, I can."*

*"So for thirty-five years, why have you never said a word?"*

*"Because up until now everything was fine."*

Hmmmm. How interesting! Could it be that we don't realize that our Left-Brain Introverts are "fine" until we ask for something they don't really want to do?

Left-Brain Introverts are really the *only* Horsenality for which treats work. This doesn't mean other horses don't enjoy treats; it's just that the Left-Brain Introvert is the one who is truly motivated by them and tends to be the one who asks, "What's in it for me?" Some will go as far as refusing to move or deliver any effort until you answer that question. Does that mean you're only going to get great results as long as you are carrying treats? *Yep . . . until you finally realize it's not about the treat.*

*\*You can see this demonstration on the Savvy Club vault. Simply log in and then type 'cookie fest' into the Google site-search box.*

### Food-oriented vs. food-focused

In the original Horsenality Profile, one of the characteristics on the circumplex (circular chart) was the term *food-oriented*, but we have now changed it to *food-focused*. Many horses can be described as food-oriented, especially at feeding time, but there is a difference between food-oriented and food-focused. A food-focused horse will make food his highest priority, like the Left-Brain Introvert horse that plunges his nose into the grass and seems to feel nothing as you tug on the rein or rope. We'll talk about what to do with this shortly and—you guessed it—it's not about the grass!

**You can give most horses a treat and have them enjoy the treat or even perform a task, but that does not mean it motivates them.**

To help you understand the difference, think of it this way:

- You can give treats to a Left-Brain Extrovert, but they won't encourage more enthusiasm. These horses are already self-motivated, enthusiastic and energetic. They love to play, so their real reward comes when you play with them. With

Left-Brain Introverts, unless you figure out how to make playtime more interesting by being more imaginative and provocative, you'll find yourself a slave to the treat! (See Christi's testimonial.)

- If your Right-Brain horse is scared and doesn't trust you, treats won't do much to change the situation. They don't really improve things, and they certainly don't make the situation better the next time. How often have you tried to bribe and lure your horse onto a trailer using food or seen someone else try that? When the horse is scared, the fear will override everything. Even a Left-Brain Introvert won't take a treat when he's scared!

Treats do not make a horse calm, they don't increase trust, they don't replace play, but they do give incentive.

### Understanding "incentive"

In order to know where, how and when to use a treat, perhaps we should start with re-characterizing the word itself. Think of it as a *bonus*, a *plus*, an *additional* benefit, an *incentive*. When you give it to your horse for doing something you've asked, it gives your horse a reason to be more eager to do something for you. Otherwise it's merely a bribe that lures your horse into doing something against his will, which means he's not really doing it *for* you. That's why people who treat-train are at a loss when the treat is not there.

It's possible your brows are knitted in confusion at this moment, but that's okay; hang in there. Confusion is the state you experience just before you make a breakthrough!

### Overcoming the grass plunge!

It's simple—rather than try to prevent it, indulge it for thirty seconds, then fifteen seconds, then five seconds. Allow it, rub him, then ask him to trot and have a plan and purpose in mind (Patterns are ideal for this) so you're not just sending him in a mindless circle.

The more you try to prevent him eating grass, the more your horse will use it against you, because he feels your lack of both physical and emotional strength, which only proves to him that he still rules!

Don't try to stop it, prevent it or get his head up before you can do anything; just carry on and ask him to do what you want. And *smile!*





Understanding the difference takes a higher level of savvy, so it's okay if you are feeling a little out of your comfort zone on this right now. Personal development is rarely convenient or comfortable, but if you want to get better, you have to go there. A little discomfort is not really that bad when you consider the alternative!

***If you can become smarter, more savvy and more provocative, you won't need the treats, and you'll be able to use them as a special bonus.***

#### **Why would your horse need incentive?**

Because he's bored and done with it! A treat is a small highlight in his dismal life of repetitive, meaningless hell. When a confident Left-Brain horse has to keep doing what he's been asked to do over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over, he is going to need an incentive at some point.

I recall the story Pat told of the jumping school-horse in Mexico who had just had enough. He'd given ten years of jumping competition and finally refused to do the big jumps anymore. And after being transitioned into the rider-training ranks with lower jumps, he finally gave that up, too. They couldn't even get him to cross a cavaletti.

They offered him to Pat as a challenge, but after Pat played the Seven Games and actually communicated with the horse, as opposed to ordering him around, the horse crossed a pole on the ground and then a cavaletti.

The next day Pat rode him over the cavaletti to a strategically placed bucket of grain just a few feet away. It blew that old horse's mind! There were three or four buckets positioned around the jump arena, and pretty soon that horse couldn't wait to get over a jump. On the fourth day Pat jumped a full course, jumped over the arena rail, galloped around the cross-country course and rode back into the arena and to the bucket of grain. Could it really be that simple for a burned-out Left-Brain horse?

Is food the only incentive? No. Think of it this way: How can conversations with you become more interesting than food?

That's what your horse is trying to teach you—it's not about the treats! If you can become smarter, more savvy and more provocative, you won't *need* the treats, and you'll be able to use them as a special bonus. But until then, with your Left-Brain Introvert or your confident, bored Right-Brain horse, you don't need to feel bad about using treats; at least your horse is getting something out of it while you learn.

#### **How do you stop your horse from raiding you for treats?**

First of all, don't make it an issue. As long as you can keep your horse out of your personal space, you have nothing to worry about; but perhaps you can start thinking more strategically and have the treats positioned at different locations so you can time the place and point at which you give your horse that little bit of incentive, as opposed to carrying a pouch of treats so you can treat constantly. There's a big difference here—you have to have a plan and not just reward your horse indiscriminately.

[By the way, the Driving Game (jumping jacks especially) and the Yo-Yo Game are the best ways to defend your personal space. Your horse cannot raid you for treats when he's standing 4' to 10' feet away from you, and by backing him away you are exerting leadership in a calm, assertive way.]

### When is the best time to use incentive?

When the horse:

- Has lost motivation.
- Is cranky about doing what you want over and over and over.
- Is burned out.
- Needs encouragement or enticement.
- Has gone above and beyond and put in a little extra effort.

So it's really not a treat, is it? This is a strategic approach to resolving key behavioral issues or improving your horse's tolerance for his situation. 🐾

*Linda was kind enough to offer a Liberty lesson during my recent Master Class in Florida. I wanted to take my groundwork and riding to a higher level with Annie, my National Show Horse (Arabian x Saddlebred). Annie has positive reflexes and soft, willing responses to everything I ask, but for Level 5 we need more energy and engagement.*

*Annie is innately a Right-Brain Extrovert, but I rarely see that side of her. Due to the Parelli program, she is a confident Right-*

*Brain Extrovert, but because of her calm demeanor, her facade is that of an obedient Left-Brain Introvert—nice stuff, but not much energy or expression.*

*I started using treats, hoping for more energy and expression, but I haven't been getting the kind of enthusiasm I am seeking. My ideal mental pictures are Pat with Casper and Linda with Remmer. Casper and Remmer are riveted to Pat and Linda and positively crackle with energy.*

*Linda showed me how to be more particular about Annie staying connected with me and how to be more provocative at Liberty to get more expression. Annie's energy came up, and she got really engaged mentally, emotionally and physically. It was thrilling!*

*I am continuing to experiment with being more provocative. It's easy for her to lose confidence if I do too much too soon or my timing is off. As we get this kind of enthusiasm and engagement more consistently under saddle, it is incredible!*

*I think I now have the keys to get beyond the treat.*

—Christ Rains, 3-Star Parelli Professional

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# Level with Me

by Linda Parelli

*Setting goals such as learning particular skills and tasks is important for never-ending self-improvement.*

*The Levels Pathway has hundreds of tasks for you to learn to do. They are organized into Four Savvys and Four Levels of expertise. In this section we will focus on some specific tasks from the Self-Assessment checklist, which can be found on the Savvy Club website: [www.parellisavvyclub.com](http://www.parellisavvyclub.com).*

## ON LINE LEVEL 2:

### Traveling Circles

#### Description

While you walk at a steady pace, your horse circles you. It's his responsibility to maintain gait and direction while you remain neutral and focused on where you want to go.

#### Purpose

Your horse does more while you do less!

It makes circling more interesting and teaches your horse to improve his responsibility for maintaining gait, maintaining direction and looking where he is going—sometimes there might be a ditch or a log in the way!

It's a fun way to get from point A to point B.

#### Quality

It's important that you keep your pace steady because that keeps you neutral, even though you are walking forward.

Have a destination in mind, even if it is just from one end of the arena to the other. If you are uncertain about where you are headed, it will make your horse uncertain.

Don't look at your horse unless something changes. Then bring him back and resend him rather than putting more pressure on him.

#### Level

This is a Level 2 exercise. You need to be through your Level 1 Patterns and up to Circling Patterns at Level 2, of which the traveling circle is one!







### ON LINE AND LIBERTY LEVEL 3:

#### Lead by the Hind Leg

##### Description

A high-level Porcupine Game #2: Lead your horse backwards by one or both of your horse's hind legs. You can use a 22-foot Line, a 12-foot Line or a Savvy String, depending on how confident and advanced you and your horse are. You can even do it with your hands, but that would be Level 5.

##### Purpose

Ultimate confidence and trust. This is why it is a Level 3 endeavor; you wouldn't start here with a new horse! Developing a relationship of trust and confidence takes time, and it takes savvy on your part, which is steadily built step by step, level by level.

Another reason to teach your horse to yield from his legs is that the rope will be, as Pat says, "the softest barb wire fence your horse will ever run into." Teaching your horse to relax and yield from pressure on his legs could save him from injury and even save his life.

##### Quality

Use what your horse already knows to help him learn: the Yo-Yo Game! Attach a 12-foot Line to the halter and make sure you can wiggle the line while standing next to your horse in Zone 3, then 4, then 5, and have him back up. Then play the Friendly Game with your hands and rope on his hind leg. Then loop the rope around his leg; play more Friendly Game and then apply a little pressure, Phase 1. Slightly increase, then hold the pressure (at Phase 2), and then wiggle your rope with the other hand. The moment your horse takes a step back, release and be friendly again. A few repetitions and *voilà!* Your horse will back up when he feels the Porcupine Game in Zone 4—his hind leg.

##### Level

Zone 4 and 5 are the most challenging areas in which to play with your horse. That's why this is a Level 3 endeavor. Do not try to be clever and do this at Level 1 or 2. Follow the Levels program as it's laid out. You'll be safe and avoid the danger of losing your horse's trust.

# Linda's Journey

## Motivating Remmer by Linda Parelli

*Now that I know so much more about Left-Brain Introverts, I love playing with them! I love the challenge of getting them mentally connected. It is interesting, and it really makes me think . . . there's so much more to the game.*



Remmer, of course, is responsible for my growth in this area, because everything was fine until Level 3, when I needed to advance his Liberty skills. The more I wanted, the less he gave me, and his expression became dull. So I went to Pat for some advice.

After listening to me explain what I was doing, which was basically going through my phases, he said simply "Well, you're not using psychology". Huh? I thought that's what the Parelli program, Seven Games and all that automatically did! What

did he mean? "For example," Pat continued, "what is Remmer getting out of it all?"

Oh, my gosh. How could I have lost sight of that? It really was all about what I wanted.

"What does Remmer really like more than anything?" asked Pat.

Treats. He loves food! "Well, why aren't you using that?"

I knew treats were not "bad," but I didn't think I should have to use them when developing Remmer. *Wrong!*



The next day I took his favorite Winnies Cookies with me to the round corral. I asked for a lot less than usual, and about halfway through our session, when he gave me a nice response on something, I offered him a cookie. You should have seen the look on his face! Of course he wanted more, but I just rubbed him and then sent him off again. His whole attitude changed, and it was obvious to me that he now saw there was something in it for him. Hence the Left-Brain Introvert cartoon I developed with the caption “*What’s in it for me?*” There is no doubt that this is a major incentive for Left Brain Introvert horses—but, of course, it’s not about the treat!

The treats made up for where my savvy fell short of Remmer’s needs for mental stimulation, but they bought me time as, over the next couple of years, I began to get more savvy about how to get to his mind. I had to learn how to make our sessions a treat in themselves.

***The best time to quit is when he is giving me his best; but it’s also the hardest, because it goes against every human (predatory) desire to get everything you can now that his energy is up!***

### A Thinker, Not a Mover

This is not to say that Left-Brain Introvert’s aren’t capable of some pretty fancy maneuvers when they feel inspired, but the real key lies in how to get them inspired. Here is a nice little checklist that I used to motivate Remmer, because when I get to his mind it’s amazing how much effort he puts in and how much fun we have.

- Start slow. Really, really slow! I figure out where his physical energy is and match it; but I must also remember that his mental energy is high. So when I slow down to match him, I intensify mentally. I do this by being very particular about something, such as moving him one foot at a time!
- Reverse Psychology. When I want him to go faster, I do the opposite and ask him to go slower, and it really surprises him! “Don’t strain yourself, Remmer! Take it easy!” That gets me even more attention, and his curiosity starts to come up, which brings up his

energy, too. So after asking him to stay slow, go slower, walk slower but keep walking, he’s ready to burst. And then allowing him to go forward is like a release for him. How interesting! And it’s fun to use this reverse psychology both on the ground and when riding.

- Direct the energy once he offers it, but not for too long! I have to be ready for it. What Pattern am I going to do? What do I want to achieve? When am I going to quit? The best time to quit is when he is giving me his best; but it’s also the hardest, because it goes against every human (predatory) desire to get everything you can now that his energy is up! Finish on a high.
- Make it a game! I have a subtle but clear Phase 1, and then I get very intense and even slower as I tease about going to Phase 3 or 4, and he jumps out of his skin—he gets really engaged and expressive. And if I have to follow through, I don’t spank him; I spank the dirt in the spot he was dawdling in, so as the string hits the dirt he has the fun of feeling like he beat it!
- Get more expressive as he becomes more expressive. I used to have more expression than he did, but I would lose rapport because he couldn’t identify with me. Now I have the same expressiveness as he does, and it’s even more fun. As he offers more I go with it, and we play at the level he offers.
- Know what the goal is. This way I know what feeling I’m looking for, and when I get it, I quit. I’m looking for a calm, trusting, motivated, willing horse, and when I see all those come together, we’re done! 🐾



*What’s in it for me?*



# Wash Those Fears Away by Teri Sprague

*"Prepare your horse for the possible, the probable and the inevitable."*—Pat Parelli

It is probable that at some point in your horse's life your vet will prescribe cold hosing of the legs as a therapy. How do you convince your prey animal that the hose and the water will not kill him?

Remember that *everything* we do with horses is simply some form of Game 1,2 or 3 (Friendly, Porcupine, Driving). We want the hosing to be Friendly, but many horses perceive it as *Driving*.

***Approach slowly and retreat quickly before the horse reacts! As you retreat in a timely way the horse will begin to relax.***

The Driving Game uses rhythmic pressure, but the Friendly Game is rhythmic *motion*. Its purpose is to desensitize the horse and help him to become more tolerant and brave. Regardless of the stimulus, use the four R's of the Friendly Game—rhythm, relaxation, retreat and reapproach. Use retreat and reapproach with steady, predictable rhythm while keeping relaxation in your body. Smiling helps! You're going to start by simulating with the end of the 12-foot Line, progressing to the hose and eventually using the hose with water running out of it.

With the lead rope over your arm or in your hand and your body relaxed, use rhythmic motion to approach, retreat and reapproach the horse. Ideally, retreat before the horse moves. At first you may miss it, so use that information as your baseline for how far to go. Try again. Observe closely. Ap-

proach *slowly* and retreat *quickly* before the horse reacts! As you retreat in a timely way the horse will begin to relax. As it does, change the rhythm to approach-stay-retreat-pause-reapproach-stay-retreat.

Be sure you can rub the horse with the rope before using the hose and can rub with the hose before turning on the water. Once the water is flowing, it is highly likely that as you approach and retreat some drops will fall on the horse. If he moves now, keep the rhythm going (approach-retreat-reapproach-retreat) quickly until he slows down or stops. Then give him a big retreat and *wait* until he licks his lips. Fairly quickly the horse will move less and less, and he will stop more and more quickly. Before you know it, he will not move as you splash the water on. *Retreat!* Soon you will be able to pause with the water on the legs—at first for a moment or two, then for a second or two, then longer and longer. Your partner will progress from intolerance to tolerance to acceptance, and eventually, as he discovers the cooling, pain-relieving effects of the cold water, even to enjoyment.

Your prior and proper preparation savvy will turn a potentially challenging situation into just another great Parelli Friendly Game!

## A Note of Caution!

Right-Brain Introverts can look as if they are accepting while they are still intolerant because their reaction is to freeze in place vs. move. Watch for these subtle signs:

- Hard, staring eyes, no blinking—often with head up and body tense; horse is frozen, likely to explode!
- "Airplane" position of ears often accompanied with head tilted as if looking out the top of the eye.
- Starting block position (hind leg appears cocked but

is actually braced wide under the body, as opposed to a relaxed cocked leg, which is relatively straight from the hip or tail)—horse is half gone!



- Ribs arcing away, hindquarters arcing toward the stimulus or you.
- Not breathing or shallow breathing.

If you see any of these, slow down, retreat more quickly and *wait longer* before you reapproach—long enough for the horse to relax (signs of relaxation are licking, blowing, blinking, lowering the head, etc.). It may take several minutes or up to an hour and a half! As Pat says, with a smile, “I’ve never seen it take longer than two days.” 🐾

*Teri Sprague is a Licensed 3-Star Parelli Instructor and 3-Star Horse Professional. She has been a Parelli Professional since 1997. Besides teaching lessons and clinics and training horses, she has developed a Parelli-based Horse Behavior course for veterinarian students, which she teaches at Colorado State University.*

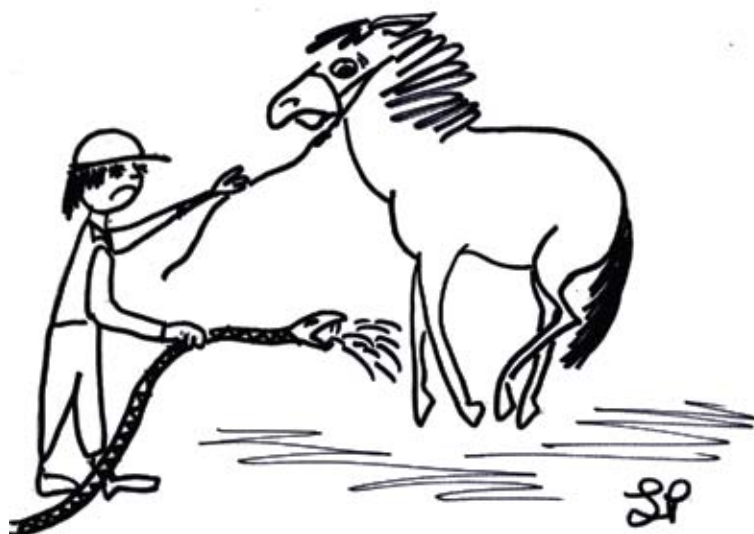


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# Good-Better-Best

## A Shimming Breakthrough! by Linda Parelli

Recently Tina Giordano (Parelli Professional), Letitia Glenn (of Parelli Saddles) and I got together to take photos of different horses so we could improve our shimming instructions for helping horses to be more comfortable when ridden with a saddle. What happened was way more than I expected.

Many of Pat's horses are now being ridden by people other than Pat, and all of a sudden a few of them have begun to show white marks behind their shoulders—white hairs that indicate friction and pressure. Friction happens when two things are moving in opposition (in this case, the horse and the saddle).

So we took one of the horses and began our puzzle-solving exercise. First we learned that he had trouble when being cinched: He tossed his head and sometimes tried to nip, no matter how delicately and politely you tried to cinch him. He was shimmed according to our original instructions for a downhill horse, but something wasn't right. How could he have five shims in the pad and still be getting white hairs? For some reason there was still pressure at the front end of the saddle, which is exactly where we don't want it! Weight on the horse's

forehand is a huge problem—it causes the horse to defend his shoulders, shortens his stride, makes him move heavily on the forehand and inhibits his ability to collect easily.

So we moved some shims around and tried a couple of different patterns with some success, but not as much as I would have liked. And then all of a sudden it hit me: The white hairs indicate both pressure and friction, so we should create a gap in that spot to relieve the pressure.

In order to create a space I turned the shims sideways and layered them further back and down low in the pad pocket so they would still lift the front of the saddle but there would be zero pressure in his shoulder movement range. Also, to keep the shims low, I didn't pull the pad up into the gullet; I left the valves level with his withers. Now I could put my hand under the front of the saddle and feel all the way behind his scapula at rest. I could easily reach all the way back to the stirrup bar, which is something that I always want to be able to do to make sure the front of the saddle is not too tight under there.

When I cinched him, the difference was immediate. He was defensive and ready for the discomfort at first—and then pleasantly surprised. Ahhhhh! No pressure. He licked his lips and relaxed. Lee mounted up, and the result was spectacular. The horse's posture completely changed, as you can see in the photos on the opposite page. His topline got longer, his hind leg stepped deeper and his withers came up higher than his hip. He was also more willing to go forward and kept his head low going into the canter. Huge!

I remembered a couple of years ago when I had a similar experience with my own horse, Allure. For a big Warmblood, he is an interesting shape. He has big shoulders, a very muscular back and a relatively low wither—the opposite of Remmer. When I used shoulder shims, Allure always had ruffled hairs at the end of my ride, so I turned the shims sideways back in 2007 to give his big shoulder movement a lot of room. You guessed it: no more ruffles. I tried the same on Remmer, but he got worse! His movement flattened, so I went back to the vertical shoulder shims, and he was much happier.

### The Breakthrough:

#### Big, round shoulders vs. A-frame shoulders.

I realized that creating space for this little horse's wide shoulders would be the solution, but would it be true for the other



*This lovely horse had been carrying himself downhill in his posture while holding his shoulders forward. He'd been traveling with a short, choppy stride because he did not have enough room under the saddle. As soon as your saddle and shimming are right, the horse has the opportunity to be uphill, to bring his shoulders back and carry the rider in a comfortable, strong and efficient manner.*



*This lovely horse had been carrying himself downhill in his posture while holding his shoulders forward. He'd been traveling with a short, choppy stride because he did not have enough room under the saddle. As soon as your saddle and shimming are right, the horse has the opportunity to be uphill, to bring his shoulders back and carry the rider in a comfortable, strong and efficient manner.*



First Attempt

**Good**

Shim pattern



Second Attempt

**Better**

Shim pattern



*We tried trimming the size of the shims in an effort to have less pressure at the top of the pocket*



Third Attempt

**Best**

Shim pattern



horses that had white hairs in the same location? I asked for the other four to be brought together so I could examine them and figure out what was going on. Would there be a pattern here, something connecting these horses in some way? Sure enough, there was. Every horse was an introvert (mostly Left-Brain, but one Right-Brain), and all but one was also downhill in posture and mutton-withered/round-shouldered! Let me explain why this is so relevant.

1. Introverts tend to be "behind the leg," an expression meaning that they don't want to go forward. (Extroverts tend to be "in front of the leg.") This usually causes the rider to over-ride

and have his or her energy in front of the horse. In doing so, the rider tends to push the saddle forward as the horse shrinks backward. The result? Friction caused by the two surfaces rubbing in opposite directions.

2. Downhill horses are lower and heavier on the front end, which causes the saddle to slide forward or sends it forward with every stride. Think of it this way: Saddles don't slide uphill! The good news is that you can help them change this.
3. "Mutton-withered" horses have big shoulders and low withers. When you sit on them and look down on the shoulders,

they have a horizontal, wide look to them as opposed to the flat-shouldered horse that has more of an A-frame slope to the shoulder (and usually a high wither).

### Simple Shimming Tips

- Big, rounded, “defensive” shoulders use horizontal shims
- Narrow, A-frame shoulders use vertical shoulder shims
- Hollow back use center shims



**Horizontal**



**Vertical**

### The Real Risk Behind White Marks

Perplexing as it is, the white marks are a symptom of the real, much more concerning problem: a downhill horse that is heavy on the forehand. Veterinarians will tell you that 80% or more of the lameness they treat is in downhill horses! What causes this? How can you change it?

Type is one aspect and riding is the other. There are some breeds that are more prone to this because they are wide. Most saddles are too narrow and painful for them, so they pull their shoulders forward to avoid the painful pressure. The typical posture that results is a horse that appears to have a short neck, longish back and even short front legs. Note that I said posture; it is not structural. It is not about the bones; it's

about the muscles. (If you pull your shoulders up toward your ears, you, too, will have a short neck and long back.) Furthermore, the front legs aren't short; the hind legs are elongated instead of having all those nice springy angles through the stifle and hocks. So where else are problems destined to appear? In the hocks and stifle, of course.

One of the realities for you regarding the Parelli saddle system is that it will give you feedback on everything that is going wrong with your riding or your horse's improper way of going. This is because our saddles are wide and cannot pinch and lock behind the shoulders, so they will slide forward if you drive with your seat or if your horse's way of going is heavy on the forehand. As you pursue excellence in riding it's important to learn how to help a horse use his hindquarters and lighten his forehand. Saddling, shimming, transitions, lateral maneuvers and your balance point are all a part of that formula.\*

When you take this feedback and look for a solution, the results are incredible. It's one of those “Oh, boy!” moments because you have a puzzle to solve! You have to experiment because it's an essential part of becoming more savvy.

To this day, when I unsaddle any of my horses I'm proud to see their smooth hair, even sweat patterns and happy shoulders, even if I've been on a trail with steep hills! Parelli saddles will help make you a better rider and help you understand how to enable your horse to move more freely and in healthy balance.

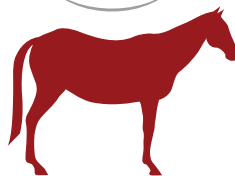
*\* To learn more, go to the Savvy Club Vault and Google and to [parellisaddles.com](http://parellisaddles.com) and click on the button TESTIMONIALS and PROBLEM SOLVING.*

When you use a Parelli Saddle system, the reversal of the problems listed above are astonishing! We've learned how to read a horse's body, and you can too. You'll know what your horse is trying to tell you and how to improve things dramatically for him.

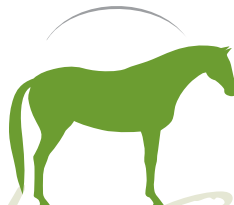
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# How to Succeed with the Patterns



I know the Patterns are new for you so I want to give you some big pointers to help you get the maximum benefit. Over the past month I've personally helped a few students with problems and when I asked if they were doing the Patterns they said "sort of" or "no".. but they had them! My advice was, if you do the Patterns, these problems will go away! They kept trying to fix them by troubleshooting the Seven Games... but the problem was not the Seven Games, it was a horse that was fed up, unmotivated or confused. So here are a few pointers to help those of you who might be in the same boat....

## 1. DO them, just DO them!

We have observed that most people find it hard to come up with a consistent plan for every time they play with their horse. And that means that your leadership takes a dive! When you do the Patterns and progress along the Levels accordingly, you'll be astounded at the progress you'll make and how much more solid your horse will become. Many behavioral and riding issues especially occur because the horse is not exercised well enough, mentally, emotionally and physically. You see the best part about these Patterns is that they impact all three, they are way more than just giving a horse a workout. Once you start doing them, you'll see... but until you do I suspect you look at them but can't see why they are special. Go back and read some of the testimonials if you need more proof.

## 2. Check it off horizontally!

I know some of you (not mentioning any names!) that have been doing each Pattern 'vertically' instead of 'horizontally'. That means you took one Pattern and did it at Level 1, 2, 3 then 4! This is not the idea and it's how you can turn it into a drill for your horse instead of an education. You need to complete one Pattern seven times, then move to the next Pattern, not the next level. By the time you complete all the Patterns at that level you'll be ready to step up and start the Patterns again but at the new level. In this way you systematically develop your horse and don't drill him, make him bored or confused. You get the perfect blend of consistency and variety and that's a huge secret for success. Oh... and make those check marks big and visible! You need to see how much progress you're making and you need to be disciplined about doing it. Can you imagine how disciplined Pat Parelli is? All this is in his head but now it's visible for you.

## 3. The Horsenality Factor

I played with a rather extreme Right-Brain Introvert for the class at the Florida Parelli Center last season. He would seem to be doing the Pattern just fine and then suddenly take off and tear away from his

owner. Essentially, he looked quiet and obedient but as soon as he was asked for a little more oomph, he'd blow up. Interestingly, this horse can already do a lot of Level 3 stuff, but he had been misread for years, no one realized he was a Right-Brain Introvert so he was pushed a little too much at times.

When I played with him and waited for him when he hesitated (as you must with a Right-Brain Introvert), he became completely immobile and couldn't move. We were doing the Figure 8 Pattern at a walk (Level 1), but on a 22-foot Line and he froze up on the second turn. So I kept the feel on the rope until finally he could take a step and as I released, he took a big sigh, licked his lips and walked over to me. And then I quit... and if he was my horse, I would have put the first check on the On Line Patterns Map that day. Even though he didn't do the whole Pattern, he had a breakthrough. Can you imagine how much better the next Fig. 8 would go, and then the next... until the 7th time? And then I'd be on to the next pattern.

You are not aiming for perfection, you just want something to improve according to the Horsenality: Right-Brain Extrovert—stay on it until he's calm. Right-Brain Introvert—stay on it until he's trusting. Left-Brain Introvert—stay on it until he offers to keep moving for at least one lap. Left-Brain Extrovert—stay on it until he's obedient. Each day it will get better and better, so be happy with the improvement and don't go for perfection. This is a development program with four levels that you can see mapped out in front of you.

## 4. Combining Savvys and Other Activities

Some of you will only be doing the On Line Patterns. Then at about half way through Level 2 patterns, start the FreeStyle Patterns, or if you don't ride then start the Liberty Patterns. Then as you get to Level 3 On Line and FreeStyle, start your Finesse. In this way you'll be playing in one, two, three and then four Savvys. If you are already playing in all four Savvys you can decide what you want to do today... play at Liberty and then focus on FreeStyle; or some On Line and then Finesse, or maybe just one Savvy today. Yesterday I just played at Liberty with my horses. Any way you want to do it is fine so long as you are not overdoing it. And then, if you like to go on trail rides, or play games with friends, do a couple of Patterns as your warm up and when your horse is totally in tune with you, off you go.

Every horseman has a plan. The Parelli Patterns are designed to help you DO what Pat Parelli does so you can put a solid foundation on your horse and grow your horsemanship instead of getting stuck or distracted. From the moment you get your horse, or get on your horse, you must have a plan or your horse will not think you are a leader.



# My Right-Brain Introvert Horse Is My Mirror

by Doreen Matheson

*"I'd pay someone \$10 to take this horse!" I've never received the \$10, but I still have Chex, who's twenty-three. She came to me as one of those "Hey Bob" horses that you couldn't lift a finger on. You couldn't pack anything crinkly in your lunch; she would crouch and tremble every time you saddled her. Comments made over the years may help describe her: "I'd either cure her or kill her." "She's a hot little number, and I don't mean the woman!" Once I said to my husband, "She just can't relax." He replied, "You know what they say about your horse being your mirror."*

This winter I had an opportunity to participate in a lesson with Linda. I had told her that I was working on my Finesse and that we had come a long way in our confidence, but I felt there was still a confidence issue holding us back. She asked me to show her what we couldn't do. We went into the center of the arena and did some Finesse, which felt pretty good to me. Next we went to the rail and were doing some canter/walk transitions, which did not feel good at all. Chex was afraid of things outside the arena and had lost her connection to me. Linda asked me how many times she had spooked going around the end of the arena. I said, "I don't know, five or six?" I was told to continue doing what I was doing and to treat every small spook as a threshold by stopping and waiting for her to blow each time. The first one took quite a while. The second time was almost immediate. The third time it seemed like an eternity waiting for her to blow and release her tension. Linda asked from across the arena, "Do you want a pillow?" I replied, "No, a Kleenex." As I sat there waiting for her to blow, the tears started rolling down my face, and I realized she is more my mirror than I knew. Chex and I have come a long way together. But if Chex could talk, I think this is what she would tell me about our journey together.



She would probably start off by explaining to me that she had had a rough start. It was scary when the tarp was tied to her and all she could do was to keep running and kicking at the tarp. "I'm not mean and vicious the way they said. I was just trying to save my life. Once I learned to tolerate the saddle and a rider, my life was more bearable than the tarp day, but still not easy. People just didn't understand me."

*Then when you learned to politely insist on my respect by being particular about softness and yielding without pushing me into thresholds, I began to offer you more and more!*

Next she might say something like, "When I came to you I appreciated the fact that you could at least see that I was afraid. I liked the fact that you could see how sensitive I was and that you were soft and gentle with me. I learned to trust you, but not the environment. There were times when you damaged that trust by letting your insecurities come before my needs. You understood early on that rubbing was not comfort for me, yet you were more concerned about what others thought than about our relationship. You knew I didn't like my face rubbed until conditions were right and you very politely brought the back of your hand up the outer bubble of my face past my eyes, then opened the hand and gently made one stroke down between my eyes and retreated. Why did you try to make me look like the 'good' Parelli horses and insist that I let you rub me in public? And you were always uptight because I was uptight and not walking around with my head on the ground as if I didn't have a care in the world.

"Thanks for the day when you quit worrying about looking stupid yourself and really started to recognize that I would never be or look like Old Dobbin. Instead, you loved me for my

talents in other areas where perceptiveness, athleticism and 'go' were important. Then when you learned to politely insist on my respect by being particular about softness and yielding without pushing me into thresholds, I began to offer you more and more!"

Chex was in her mid- to late teens when Linda helped me recognize that I was still, unknowingly, pushing her through thresholds. As I became more aware and she became more trusting, I started to see a lot of licking and also heard a lot of opinions from her (some not very nice). I believe she would now tell me, "I appreciate you allowing my ugly feedback once I became trusting enough to feel I was allowed to speak my mind. Then, as I became more confident and got a little pushy, you started gently shaping that behavior with understanding. I liked your attitude of 'Thanks for sharing, but that was a little rude.'"

I think she appreciates the way my leadership has grown over the years, and here are some others words of advice that I believe she would give me:

"Don't place me in a category. Flip-flopping doesn't mean I'm crazy. Sometimes I may be worried; sometimes I may want to play. Sometimes you can touch me and help me get rid of my worry; other times you need to be there for me but leave me alone until I can think my own way through it. If you always treat me as if I'm worried, that's who I'll be. You need to recognize when I am more comfortable and want to be challenged (progressive) and have things more fun and interesting. Being particular without being critical was key for me. That took my confidence to a new level where just tossing ropes did not. However, this could have been better had you placed me in a safe environment—close to the herd in my familiar surroundings, but far enough away that they were not in my bubble—and been slow and consistent with the Friendly Game until I lowered my head on my own and I learned to blow.

"Remember the first day I came running to you in the pasture? I made a huge half circle around you and came in behind your back. Then you ruined it by turning and reaching for me. You are getting much better about rewarding my running to you with waiting for me to come in behind you and touch you. Sometimes I want to come in close, but I am not quite trusting enough to do it. I appreciate the way you have learned to retreat when I start to feel the need to leave."



I had made enough mistakes and I knew my horse well enough to know what didn't work! For instance, Pat had taught us "go and flick" to get your horse to stick to you. I took off and flicked her as if she were a Left-Brain Extrovert and scared the living daylights out of her. It was literally a year before I could turn my back on her without her flying backwards away from me. Other mistakes I made with Chex were things like allowing other's opinions to cause me to do the wrong thing. Once I was told, "That means nothing to her." I knew in my gut that she was trying her heart out, and I could feel her trying to slow down and knew I needed to *wait* to give her time to think. But I let my insecurities override that, and I got firm. At that point I felt a big loss of trust that took quite a while to get back.

I don't feel bad about the things that I did not know how to deal with. But I do regret the times that I knowingly thought about my own selfish needs or pride instead of humbly putting our relationship first. Now I have several strategies that I use to help me when my insecurities try to take over. One is to read from my little book of compliments from people I admire, like Pat telling me "Yes, Doreen!" (and I know what he meant!). Another is to run Ray Hunt's voice through my mind saying, "I'm here for the horse!" And finally, the words Pat said at my first Young Horse/Difficult Horse course, "I'm the gas, and you're the brake. If your gut tells you not to do something, don't go there even if Pat Parelli tells you to!"

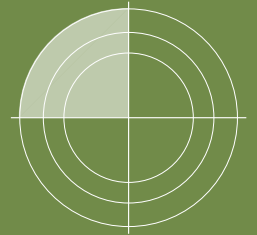
Years ago I described Chex as thinking, "Help me feel safe, and I'll do anything for you!" Now, after gaining a new level of understanding of Right-Brain Introverts, I would add to that, "*Wait, wait, wait* for me to release my tension. Help me build my trust and see what we can do together!" 🐾

# Horsenality

## Dos and Don'ts

*Knowing what makes your horse tick is a fantastic key to success with your horse.*

*Here are some updated Dos and Don'ts for each Horsenality.*



### LEFT-BRAIN EXTROVERT

*This horse is a playful character that needs interesting things to do. He is obsessed with learning and needs variety and new things to keep it fun.*

#### DO:

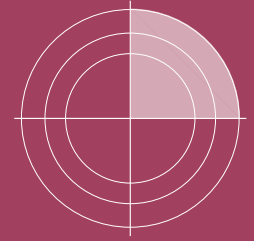
- ✓ Teach him something new at least once a week.
- ✓ Keep sessions active, interesting and playful. Use obstacles, become more imaginative and when he's really playful, increase the pace and get him to do more.
- ✓ Mischief is his middle name; so give him things to do with that busy mind and mouth. This horse loves to play tricks on you, so why not teach him some tricks on purpose?
- ✓ Use long lines – 22' and 45'. Give him room to move!
- ✓ Praise him a lot: rubs and scratches, smiles, laughter... you having fun as well, is very rewarding for this kind of Horsenality.
- ✓ Encourage his ideas and he'll become interested in yours.
- ✓ Move his feet and he'll give you his mind.
- ✓ Use the Patterns! They give him purpose.

Obedience Strategies: Parelli Patterns give him a purpose and engage his mind. Encourage his idea first.

#### DON'T:

- ✗ Bore him with endless, mindless repetition. This guy is smart! When you know he's got it, move on. You can always come back to it and add polish little by little.
- ✗ Slow, calm riding is not really this horse's dream. He wants to be active, go somewhere.
- ✗ Short lines (12') are too confining when playing on the ground.
- ✗ Punish him, ever. He doesn't know he's being naughty; he's just having fun! If he's high-spirited, and you punish him he'll become aggressive. If you end up scaring or suppressing him he'll shut down and crawl inside his shell to save his dignity.
- ✗ Argue with him as it's an opportunity for him to dominate. Encourage his idea instead and he'll come around sooner.





# RIGHT-BRAIN EXTROVERT

*This horse constantly needs reassurance. He gets confused easily and then gets afraid, so he needs you to make things simple, which will help him relax; especially since that is not something that comes easily for him around humans.*

## DO:

- ✓ Frequent disengagement and transitions. Also use a lot of consistency, it's calming. For example, circles are great and the more worried your horse is, the smaller you need to make the circles. You could also weave around barrels or buckets placed six-feet apart. Frequent transitions also uses the principle of consistency... keep doing one-rein transitions every few strides, from walk to trot, until your horse refocuses and calms down.
- ✓ Speed up, match the energy and add "four ounces." You need to be asking your horse to go more quickly than he really wants to; this interrupts the fear pattern. If you don't feel safe and confident doing this when riding, get off and do it from the ground. For example, if your horse gets frantic and wants to head to the arena gate, paces at the gate, etc., take him there and get him to pace back and forth faster than he wants to do it! Do it until he relaxes and be ready to start again.
- ✓ Use longer lines when playing on the ground, it will give your horse more drift. (22' is ideal unless you are good with a 45-foot Line).
- ✓ Respect thresholds; use approach and retreat to overcome them.
- ✓ Keep learning sessions short and simple.
- ✓ Relax when he relaxes, so pretty soon he learns how to keep you quiet! Until then keep your energy up and get your horse busy.
- ✓ Parelli Patterns! They give him focus.

Calming strategies: Frequent disengagement: A Million Transitions; Small circles; Tiny figure eights; Falling Leaf (1/2 circle changes of direction while you walk forwards); Do what he wants, only faster and smaller—"and then some!"

## DON'T:

- ✗ Straight lines help a horse gather speed. You don't want this! Use straight lines only when your horse is more self-controlled.
- ✗ Don't hold him back; this increases fear. Give the energy a focus and remember to use ONE rein for control - it disengages and calms.
- ✗ On Line is better than Liberty if your horse is upset. That way you can "hold his hand". He'll tend to get lost and disconnected at Liberty.
- ✗ Don't teach your horse more than one thing at a time.
- ✗ Don't try to teach him when he's upset or unconfident. That's the time to use calming strategies.
- ✗ Forcing him over thresholds usually results in an accident.
- ✗ Don't wait for things to get better, he needs your leadership to help him get calm again.

Make it worse by: holding him back; punishing him; using stronger bits, tie downs, martingales, etc.; being too soft and not matching his energy; not knowing what to do - strong and focused leadership is essential; blasting through thresholds; getting mad or frustrated or scared.



## RIGHT-BRAIN INTROVERT

*This shy, timid, shrinking violet avoids pressure by retreating into himself. Success involves going very slowly at first and waiting for him to come out of his shell, to trust more. Pretty soon he'll be offering you more.*

### DO:

- ✓ Wait – wait – wait – WAIT! Ask your horse for something and then wait until he does it or looks at you to ask for clarification or more direction. If you just go through your phases to get him to act when you want, he'll be tense, lose confidence and trust. He may even blow up.
- ✓ Use the tiniest and softest suggestions and wait. This horse sees every little thing you do, sometimes he doesn't respond because his brain is locked up in fear.
- ✓ Be consistent. The Right-Brain horse has trouble with change so do simple things with lots of repetition until he's confident.
- ✓ Move his heart and he'll give you his confidence.
- ✓ Confidence is everything. If you focus on this, your horse will give you everything else.
- ✓ Parelli Patterns! They give him confidence.

Trust Strategies: Wait until he can think. Go slow, VERY slow, and he'll grow in confidence. Spend undemanding time. Use a lot of gentle repetition.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Make your horse do things when he's not looking at you. This tells you he's afraid of the pressure you are putting on him. You might not think it's pressure, but you can overload this Horsenality even at Phase 1 simply by asking and asking and not waiting long enough for the response.
- ✗ Ask too much. Ask less in the beginning and you'll get more in the end. Don't ask more unless your horse is calm and trusting.
- ✗ Use big phases. You don't need them. He can see you, he just can't think when he's afraid or rushed/pushed.
- ✗ Punish your horse for not doing what you want. Remember, this is fear, and punishment does not make a horse braver.



## LEFT-BRAIN INTROVERT

*Welcome to the land of "Why should I? What's in it for me?" This horse reads people like a book. He knows what you want and he's not going to give it to you, unless you treat him right. Even though he appears stubborn or lazy, he's not at all lazy in the mind! Reverse psychology is where it's at, oh... and treats!*

### DO:

- ✓ Use incentive – treats, grazing, rest, scratches, etc. Incentive is not bribing because you'll ask your horse to do something before rewarding him. A bribe is when you use the treat to lure him into doing it. There's a big difference.
- ✓ Ask him to do less than he's offering. It will blow his mind! He'll then start offering more.
- ✓ Give him time to think. He's not a slow thinker; he's just got to stop thinking resistant thoughts before he can be more in tune with you.
- ✓ Variety is important, it makes life interesting.
- ✓ Use more drive than draw.
- ✓ Teach him some tricks. This is fun for both of you and is a good way to make him feel clever.
- ✓ Move his mind and he'll move his feet.
- ✓ Parelli Patterns! They encourage him to think and show how smart he is.

Improve Motivation: Likes – variety, rewards and food! Also responds well to going slow, relaxing, eating and doing things that are new and interesting.

Variety: straight lines, point to point, trail rides, obstacles, daily variety, tricks and learning something new.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Make him work. He uses energy only for the things he thinks are fun.
- ✗ Punish him. You'll have a big fight on your hands. This horse is a master intimidator of people when he dislikes them!
- ✗ Don't push him. He'll have you working harder than him. He's also great at objecting when asked to go faster and usually responds by kicking up, swishing his tail or laying back his ears. Do the opposite of what he expects such as stopping, slowing, petting or giving him a treat.
- ✗ Don't micromanage - ask him to do something and then wait for him to do it. If he doesn't, re-send.
- ✗ Don't get tougher, get more 'interesting' - do less to get more. Surprise him with a flick under the flank and a treat (cookie, rub or rest) when he tries.
- ✗ Use much repetition. He cannot see the point in doing the same thing over and over and will lose motivation and respect for you. He's smart. Treat him like he is.
- ✗ Let your horse come to you with his ears back. Playfully send him or chase him away until he asks for permission to come to you.
- ✗ Get fooled into thinking that he's lazy. He's just unmotivated by you, so figure out how to make things more interesting.

Big Dislikes – Micromanagement - you need to encourage him to use his brain.



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*Congratulations to the new Levels Pathway Graduates! April 2009-June 2009*

## **Level 4 Graduates**

*(On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty+Finesse)*

Farrah Green, USA  
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## **Level 4 On Line**

Anita Burns, UK  
Sara Chambers, USA  
Lin Johnson, USA

## **Level 4 Liberty**

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Terry Conkright, USA  
Rachel Jessop, USA  
Clarissa Townsend, Australia  
Phyllisann Tyler, New Zealand

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Alejandra Gonzalez, Costa Rica

## **Level 4 Finesse**

Rachel Jessop, USA

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Linda Sanders, UK  
Jeanie Shepherd, USA  
Andrew Simms, Australia  
Leonard Simpson, USA  
Sanne Steenhuisen, Netherlands  
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Debbie Blake, USA  
Lina Brandt, Sweden  
Anita Burns, UK  
Cheryl Burt, USA  
Alex Denzik, USA  
Bonnie Doerfler, USA  
Tammy Ghesquiere, USA  
Lauree Hall, USA  
Laura Jacobson, USA  
Pamela Meijer, USA  
David Mellor, Australia  
Claire Peckham, UK  
Michaela Raab, Austria  
Camille Riley, USA  
Justyna Rucinska, Poland  
Sanne Steenhuisen, Netherlands  
Joanne Trout, USA  
Margot Van Lare, Netherlands  
Larry Walker, USA  
Hanna Walton, UK  
Christine Wertz, USA  
Jeannie Wiskow, USA  
Ann Woolsey, USA  
Kelsey Woolsey, USA  
Mikayla Woolsey, USA

### Level 2 Graduates

(On Line+FreeStyle)

Laura Adams, USA  
Meggie Allen, USA  
David Anderson, USA



Jeanette Baerwald, USA  
Sofia Bainbridge, Australia  
Elin Barton, USA  
Laura Beaver, USA  
Pam Benton, USA  
Sarah Berg, USA  
Joy C Bolt, USA  
Deborah Bos, USA  
Rebecca Bowerman, Australia  
Ann Bowman, UK  
Claire Bradshaw, USA  
Sarah Brady, Ireland  
Rayne Brafford, USA  
Diane Brault, USA  
Barbara Brim, USA  
Maxine Brooks, Canada  
Rachael Brouette, USA  
Judith Burke, UK  
Tina Caldwell, USA  
Tricia Campbell, Australia  
Louise Chacon, UK  
Leslie Chadwell, USA  
Barbara Christman, USA  
Kathleen Cianci, Canada  
Samantha Clegg, UK  
Karen Collins, USA  
Donna J Coon, USA  
Laura Cortright, USA  
Jenny Davies, UK  
Debby de Vantier, New Zealand  
Yannick Demarest, France  
Karen Devlin, UK  
Liesbet Diestelmans, Belgium  
Joanna Donovan, USA  
Marilee Donovan, USA  
Lucy Douglas, USA  
Klaudia Duif, France  
Sibylle Durr, Switzerland  
Wendy van Duwren, Netherlands  
Sara Egan, USA  
Julie Facchina, USA  
Richard Ferneley, UK  
Marina Fischer, Germany  
Anna Flackman, Sweden  
Sharon France, UK  
Jessica Gillespie, Canada  
Kevin Glenister, Canada

Iris Glick, USA  
Jana Haasler, Germany  
Diana Hand, UK  
Mary Hauser, USA  
Paulina Herman, Poland  
Claire Hetherington, Australia  
Aleta Honkala, USA  
Karen Hufschmid, Switzerland  
Jane Hulbert, UK  
Patricia Humphrey, USA  
Kristen Hunnicutt, USA  
Hilary Jackson, Australia  
Karen Janus, Australia  
Marja Jarvis, Australia  
Linda Jefferies, USA  
Marianne Joneklint, Sweden  
Diana Jones, USA  
Jenny Jones, USA  
Shanda Kearns, USA  
Ella Kennedy, Ireland  
Vicki Kenny, New Zealand  
Kim Kindred, USA  
Pam Knight, USA  
Gabbi Korow, USA  
Marco Kueng, Switzerland  
Sarina Kueng, Switzerland  
Anna Kwapisz, Poland  
Stephanie Lehr, USA  
Emma Letchford, UK  
Beth Ann Lynch, USA  
Rachel Mahone, USA  
Crystal Maines, USA  
Ariel Marinetti, USA  
C. Lynn Marriott, Canada  
Linda McCartney, USA  
Rachel McMillan, Canada  
Darlene McPherson, USA  
Pat Miller, Australia  
Rebecca Mogielske, USA  
Jennifer Mohler, USA  
Kathryn Moore, New Zealand  
Kari Marlene Mulder, Norway  
Alix Nardone, USA  
Gabriele Neurohr, France  
Katy Nichoalds, USA  
Candace Nichols, USA  
Julie Olson, USA

Karin Ortner, Austria  
JoAnn Osborne, USA  
Kim Panosso, USA  
Ellen Parry, USA  
Donna Parsley, USA  
Anna Payne, USA  
Erin Pearson, USA  
Linda Pearson, USA  
Mary Perkins, USA  
Billy Piton, Canada  
Theresa Precious, Canada  
Kelsey Quick, USA  
Sabine Rahn, Sweden  
Jeanne Re', USA  
Bonnie Reuling, USA  
Linda Riden, USA  
Zachary Rios, USA  
Dawne Roberge, USA  
Jacqui Sandercock, Australia  
Barbara Schmid, Switzerland  
Sarah Schultze, USA  
Judy Scott, USA  
Louisa Severson, USA  
Heather Shandro, Canada  
Arien Shipe, USA  
Susan Slagle, USA  
Janet Smith, USA  
Wendy Smith, UK  
Sue Solf, Canada  
Agnieszka Songin, Poland  
Renee St. John, USA  
Keri Lynn Standish, Canada  
Andrea Terstegen, Germany  
Leanne Tomlinson, Canada  
Melanie Tonkin, New Zealand  
Joanne Trout, USA  
Gemma van Maarseveen, Netherlands  
Alexis Visser, USA  
Alex Watson, UK  
Anne Watt, UK  
Kaila Watters, Canada  
Susan Williams, UK  
Tonya Guy Williams, USA  
Antje Wittkopp, Germany  
Jennifer Woods, UK  
Imogen Wright, UK



Cindy Yotter, USA  
Jo Zimmermann, USA

### Level 2 On Line

Shirley Adkins, UK  
Linda Allison, USA  
K.D. Alwast, USA  
Jodie Anderson, USA  
Janet Armijo, USA  
Erik Arnson, USA  
Elizabeth Asselin, USA  
Dawn Bauer, USA  
Sandy Bauguss, USA  
Becky Bauman, USA  
Holly Bennetts, UK  
Sophie Bennetts, UK  
Juliette Best, UK  
Patricia Biernbaum, USA  
Lynn Billeter, USA  
Jessica Blackwell, USA  
Tracey Blair, New Zealand  
Emma Bobbitt, USA  
Birgit Boelk, USA  
Debbie Boling, USA  
Floor Bouwsma, Netherlands  
Jess Brooks, Canada  
Juanita Burt, Australia  
Natasha Burt, Australia  
Jeanette Carle, USA  
Barb Carroll, USA  
Lucian Cayce, USA  
Emma Change, Australia  
Donald Christie, UK  
Emily Church, USA  
M. Blair Clark, USA  
Tammy Clayton, Canada  
Sandy Cleveland, USA  
Dirk Coesemans, Belgium  
Bliss Conner, USA  
Jane Cook, New Zealand  
Nienke Coppens, Netherlands  
Jan Corwin, USA  
Kathleen Craig, USA  
Heather Creason, USA  
Lauren Dawson, Canada  
Sharon Densmore, USA  
Chuck Desibour, USA  
Cindi Desibour, USA  
Austin Devlin, USA

Liesbet Diestelmans, Belgium  
Sherley Doucet, Canada  
Kristen Dowell, USA  
Rhonda Dowell, USA  
Anjali D'Souza, USA  
Kim D'Souza, USA  
Sheral Dubry, USA  
DeLisa L. East, USA  
Lynn Eberhardt, USA  
Becki Ensell, UK  
Bert Evans, USA  
Janice Ann Evans, UK  
Sue Evans, USA  
Tersa Evans, USA  
Dr. Isabelle Farmer, USA  
Tammy Finlay, Canada  
Aimee Follis, UK  
Cheryl Foreman, UK  
Claire Fowler, UK  
Katrina Fowler, UK  
Darlene Franchetto, Canada  
Judith Franklin, USA  
Marsha Friedhoff, USA  
Silvia Furter, Switzerland  
Patricia Gardiner, UK  
Michael Garman, USA  
Sherry Garman, USA  
Tania Garner-Tomas, Canada  
Bruno Gastmans, Belgium  
Angela Gemson, UK  
Amanda Gerson, USA  
Joyce Getrost, USA  
Elaine Gibbs, Canada  
Michele Gibson, USA  
Beigette Gill, USA  
Doreen Gleeson, Australia  
Kaylon Goodwill, USA  
Leah Greenleaf, USA  
Kathie Harper, USA  
Julie Hartman, USA  
Lauren Henson, USA  
Anna Hill, USA  
Michele Hochhauser, USA  
Linda Holmseth, USA  
Carol Hopkins, USA  
Dawn Hughes-Bissonnette, Canada  
Melody Hull, USA  
Constance Jackson, USA

Anna Jodel, Poland  
Kerry Johns, UK  
Charles Johnson, USA  
Tana Johnson, USA  
Malgorzata Juchniewicz, Poland  
Nancy Kapitan, USA  
Lauren Kelly, USA  
Kim Kielbaey, Belgium  
Jodie Koch, UK  
Jennifer Koning, Netherlands  
Barbara Kotz, USA  
Laurence Leclercq, France  
Mona Lisa Dulysz, USA  
Lesley Livingstone, Australia  
Claire Loomis, USA  
Jane Lovatt, Australia  
Terri Love, USA  
Susie Lundberg, USA  
Anna Macklin, UK  
Myriam Majeau, USA  
Martha Manigross, USA  
Claire Manion, Australia  
Debbie Marcus, USA  
Julia Mason, USA  
Anne Maree McComb, Australia  
Jamie-Lynn McGarvey, Canada  
Lori Ann McGarvey, Canada  
Chris McGinnis, USA  
Jacqueline McKay, UK  
Karen McKinney, USA  
Lucille Mensies, USA  
Jackie Michaels, UK  
Pamela Mineo, USA  
Mode Moreno, Spain  
Auerie Morgan, USA  
Michaela Motz, Germany  
Amy Muns, USA  
Brenda L. Myers, USA  
Hege Nerseeth, Norway  
Marianne Neumann, Denmark  
Caroline Neuner, Austria  
Gail Noble, UK  
Cilla North, UK  
Catherine Nugent, Australia  
Kim Orr, USA  
Becky Ostrem, USA  
Becky Overland, USA  
Lori Payne, USA  
Rosie Alice Pearson, UK





Judy Peterson, Canada  
Melissa Pittman, USA  
Shawn Plummer, USA  
Monika Poplawska, Poland  
Ann Rasmussen, USA  
Thomas Rast, France  
Teresa Ray, USA  
Jean Reinhardt, USA  
Regina Richling, Spain  
Robin L. Robinson, USA  
Sue Rodgers, UK  
Trudy Rogers, USA  
Leah Rose, USA  
Emily Russell Campbell, USA  
Ingrid S. Henigar, USA  
Renee Saarla, USA  
Andrea Sattler, Austria  
Charlotte Savino, USA  
Jeanette Schevers, Canada  
Stephanie Schierioth, USA  
Lindsay Sherry, USA  
Michael Simmons, USA  
Julie Smart, New Zealand  
Ann Smith, UK  
Kathy Sothorn, USA  
Michael Sparling, USA  
Allison Stahl, USA  
Claire Stansfield, UK  
Chynna J. Stebilla-Kindred, USA  
Floor Stender, the Netherlands  
Kathy Stone, USA  
Marion Storz, Germany  
Ronja Storz, Germany  
Sara Struzik, Poland  
Josefin Svensson, Sweden  
Lee Talbot, Canada  
Meghan Thompson, USA  
Robinette Travis, USA  
Alison Tumchewics, Canada  
Kelsey Turiff, USA  
Lynn Turner, USA  
Kamila Tyran, Poland  
Sue Tysinger, USA  
Karen Ulven, USA  
Agnita Van Den Bosch, Australia  
Katherine Voorhis, USA  
Beth Weaver, USA  
Kayla Wells, USA  
Karin Werner, Germany

Kim Wetherbee, USA  
Carol White, USA  
Leesa Whitman, USA  
Kathryn Willcox, UK  
Zoe Williams, UK  
Cloud Worley, USA  
Sandra Wrede, USA  
Ingrid Wuytjens, Belgium  
April Yackley, USA  
Tina Yorek, USA

### Level 2 FreeStyle

Chris Brady, Ireland  
Lynda Costanzo, USA  
Roxanne Davis, USA  
Lisa Dumper, Canada  
Deb Eisenmann, USA  
Suzan Franz, USA  
Stephanie Gaunt, UK  
Daniel Gruen, USA  
Ingrid Henigar, USA  
Maizie Hill, USA  
Megan Hill, Australia  
Rebecca Holloway, UK  
Hana Hosking, New Zealand  
Laurie Jahraus, USA  
Anna Lehmeier, Germany  
Kelly Messera, USA  
Ellen Meyers, USA  
Clare Miller, USA  
Ellen Mumma, USA  
Dawn Peterson, USA  
Emma Rios, USA  
Nancy Salisbury, USA  
Kathryn Sorrell, USA  
Robbie Stevenson, Canada  
Jean Stong, USA  
Aurelie Tellenbach, Switzerland  
Zoe Therrez, USA  
Christine Tomaszewski, USA

### Level 1 Graduates (On Line)

Miranda Ahrens, USA  
Ms. Roy Ahrens, USA  
Nina Aicher, Austria  
Jamie Augustine, USA  
Jayne Barrell, UK  
Marie Bath, UK

Samantha Berg, USA  
Miriam Bibby, UK  
Christine Bishop, USA  
Miranda Bishop, USA  
Alice Blanchard, Australia  
Laura Bose, USA  
Eden Bowen, USA  
Krystal Breisch, USA  
Elsa Bridger, UK  
Annemieke Broom, Australia  
Brigitte Bruengger, Switzerland  
Brian Byrne, Ireland  
Beth Ann Chavez, USA  
Katie Christopher, UK  
Cynthia Clarke, USA  
Martin Clifton, UK  
Chiara Coesemans, Belgium  
Leonie Colquhoun, Australia  
Tasmin Colquhoun, Australia  
Deb Conrad, USA  
Elise Corbett, Canada  
Dave Cross, USA  
Tracie Cross, USA  
Ruth Crownover, USA  
Annette Dall Nielsen, Denmark  
Jo Danehy, USA  
Tash Daszykowski, UK  
Q DeHart, USA  
Marla Delarco, USA  
Jaslyn Dennis, Australia  
Laura Dens, Belgium  
Debby DeVantier, New Zealand  
Zoe Dewson, New Zealand  
Romana Dolinsky, Australia  
Jane Draper, Australia  
Paul Duckworth, USA  
Sarah Ebbett, New Zealand  
Anita Eckley, USA  
Pam Eley, UK  
Laura Culp Elliot, USA  
Puk Elmsdal, Denmark  
Bonnie Emanuels, Canada  
Claudia Ettlin, Switzerland  
Dave Ewacha, Canada  
Julie Fenoglio, USA  
Jan Fifer, USA  
Jan Fleetwood, USA  
Margaret Foisy, USA  
Ueli Freihofer, Switzerland



Reba Frye, USA  
Rachel Gardner, UK  
Sherry Gilbert, USA  
Kayla Gilley, USA  
Shawn Goodwin, USA  
Teri Gourley, USA  
Durene Gray, Canada  
Brittany Greaux, USA  
Jasmin Grieshaber, Switzerland  
Amy Griffiths, UK  
Daniel Gruen, USA  
DI Haines, UK  
Tanya Hammond, UK  
Ivonne Hanke, Germany  
Megan Hanley, USA  
Pauline Hawkins, USA  
Caitlin Hofmann, USA  
Daniel Holzmann, Switzerland  
Hana Hosking, New Zealand  
Jane Hough, UK  
Laura Howe, UK  
Lois Huckins, USA  
Liz Humes, USA  
Jennefer Hust, USA  
Nadene Iles, UK  
Kelley Irwin, USA  
Allison J. Gannon, USA  
Andrea James, UK  
Angela Johnson, USA  
Karina Johnston, Australia  
Linda Jordan, UK  
Bill Kamke, USA  
Brett Kandoll, USA  
Lizette Karstrom, Sweden  
Angela Keith, Australia  
Jutta Kelm, Germany  
Lucienne Kelm, Germany  
Petra Kilbertus, Germany  
Dawn Kilpatrick, UK  
Bruce Kindred, USA  
Becky Kitchen, UK  
Kip Kline, USA  
Sylvia Kohl, Germany  
Paula Kooyman, the Netherlands  
Noemi Koradi, Switzerland  
Katarzyna Kuczyuska, Poland  
Natalie Lanzarotta, USA  
Michelle Leche, UK  
Gillian Lee, UK

Melissa Levy, USA  
Dawn J Liggett, USA  
Kath Lionacre, UK  
Karen Locklair, USA  
Valerie Locklair, USA  
Sarah Lucas, UK  
Sue Lukashevich, USA  
Zoe Lukashevich, USA  
Caroline Lusian, USA  
Meg Lynner, Italy  
Stacie MacDonald, UK  
Caitlin Macmillan, New Zealand  
Barbara Martin, New Zealand  
Barbara Martinez Richling, Spain  
Amy McDonald, USA  
Ian Meadows, UK  
Crystal Merritt, USA  
Agnieszka Mierzwinska, Poland  
Judy Milam, USA  
Sarah Janine Miller, USA  
Anett Mindermann, USA  
Rachael Mogielski, USA  
Nicholas Moore, UK  
Amy Morrell, USA  
Melissa Muns, USA  
Ashley Musikantow, USA  
Nadja Neitzel, Germany  
Coltyn Nelson, USA  
Matt Nicole, Austria  
Phillipa Noble, UK  
Cheryl O'Brien, UK  
Penny O'Connor, UK  
Nina Olsen, Norway  
Lisa Owen, UK  
Angela Pearce, New Zealand  
Lisa Pelky, USA  
Elisabeth Pflieger, Austria  
Wendy Pickering, UK  
Michelle Pitt, UK  
Beth Pollard, Ireland  
Virpi Portier, USA  
Denise Poulston, Australia  
Kimlyn Powers, USA  
Jolanta Radwanska, Poland  
Zuzanna Rajchert, Poland  
Kirsten Rankine, Australia  
Terry Roberts, UK  
Susan Rochester, USA  
Mauricette Rodde, Switzerland

Linda Rosen, USA  
Kirsten Roszack, Australia  
Chavdar Rusev, Austria  
Lorraine Sanderson, UK  
Carol Sanger, USA  
Andreas Schlesinger, Austria  
Claudia Schubert, Germany  
Regina Scott, UK  
Cheryl Seidl, USA  
Liz Selby, USA  
Lynda Sides, USA  
DeAnna Sims, USA  
Donna Smedley, UK  
Karen Smith, USA  
Milt Smith, USA  
Rebecca Smits, USA  
Karla Spence, USA  
Rosemarie Standish, Canada  
Judith Starecek, Austria  
Dani Jo Stephansons, USA  
Robbie Stevenson, Canada  
Lorie Studer, Canada  
Zuzanna Szopowska, Poland  
Tammy Tedford, Canada  
Pat Terry, Australia  
Lola Timewell, Australia  
Kerie Suzanne Toms, USA  
Courtney Trares, USA  
Jean Valer, USA  
Annie Van Brandt, Belgium  
Marlous van Dostende, Netherlands  
Han Walschaerts, Belgium  
Shannon Watson, USA  
David Weiland, Australia  
John Weir, Australia  
Shane Wells, Australia  
Natasha Wellsteed, Australia  
Michelle Whitmore, USA  
Elaine Williams, USA  
Jacqueline Wilson, USA  
Madeleine Wilson, USA  
Karen Wimpy, USA  
Christina Wittig, Germany  
Carrie Work, USA  
Charlotte Wright, UK  
Jennifer Wroath, UK  
Katherine Zukowski, USA

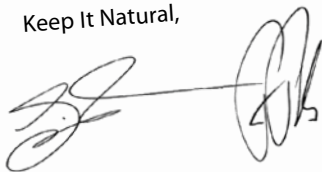
# Savvy Club Upgrades!

For years, and years and years many of you have asked for more. Like me, you are on this thirsty quest for knowledge, and you can't get enough! It's taken us a long time (sorry!), but finally we have found a way to give you two new levels of more—more education, more inspiration, more more!

Savvy Club Silver gives you twelve audio CDs with Pat (one per month) and four Mastery Manuals. Via the CDs we give you access to the hundreds of "fireside chats" that Pat used to have with us at clinics and camps many years ago—something we haven't known how to pass on to the hundreds of thousands of Parelli students around the world now. And the Mastery Manuals give us an avenue in which to share in-depth studies on key subjects such as the independent seat, confidence, focus, feel, etc.

Savvy Club Gold gives you the same audios and all twelve manuals for the year. One of our Gold Members said after receiving her "loot" that she saw this as a home study course that would propel her faster and more deeply into her quest for ultimate horsemanship. On top of that, we are able to offer members of Savvy Club Gold a dedicated Gold Hotline that takes you directly to one of our highly qualified faculty members at the Parelli Center. You can talk about your situation and receive one-to-one coaching and advice. The Savvy Club is not just a collection of DVDs and magazines; it is a way to stay connected to Pat Parelli, to focus on new lessons every month and access a vast archive of valuable information via the Savvy Club vault on our website. It's about never-ending self-improvement. And stay tuned—there are some exciting new developments on the horizon for you!

Keep It Natural,



Linda and Pat Parelli

## What people are saying...

*I've recently moved to the new Gold membership and not only am I 'licking and chewing' more than ever, I'm finding myself significantly reinterpreting material. I'm also finding new depth to things I've seen and read - even the standard Savvy Club materials are being read and watched with a new perspective.*

*Just got my June Gold shipment in the mail and I need to let you know that the timing was beyond perfect! If I ever had any doubts that the upgrade to Gold was worth it they vanished with this shipment! Although the others have been fantastic especially the Focus manual, this one exceeded my expectations.*

*I love hearing Pat tell his stories and it's a great way to absorb information as I can play the CDs in my car or while I am doing little jobs around the house. I feel I am hearing pearls of wisdom drop from his lips and he seems to impart something casually into his way of talking that leaves you thinking about the message, very subtle at times but very powerful and important!*



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# Calendar of Events



## Truly Changed My Life!

*The Madison, WI Celebration was totally amazing, inspiring, humbling, informative, humorous, friendly, and exhausting. Ironically, there was a Saddlebred horse show happening a mere 300 yards from the Parelli arena. Talk about opposite ends of the spectrum! My daughter Teri's favorite part of the Celebration was on Saturday when Linda did the Horsenality demo with Remmer and Allure. Great pointers for her to use when she plays tomorrow with her Left-Brain Introvert! I really enjoyed the Savvy Spotlights, and especially liked when Pat would show the participants how to be more effective with their partners. Lauren Barwick's demo brought me and many others to tears (even one of the ushers). Her description of turning her "why me" thoughts into "why not me" statements will stay with me for a very long time. The Savvy duos (two different mother/daughter duos) on Sunday were special to me because my daughter and I are so lucky to have each other to share our love of horses with. Whew, I am so tired, and considering the fact that I just sat on my butt for three days straight leads me to believe my mind is just churning with all the info it has to process. - Nan R.*

## AUGUST

**AUGUST 25-30**

*Altech FEI European Jumping  
and Dressage Championships,  
Windsor Castle, UK*

## SEPTEMBER

**SEPTEMBER SAVVY CLUB DVD**

*Rein Positions Demystified*

**SEPTEMBER 12**

*Savvy Summit,  
Pagosa Springs, CO, USA*

**SEPTEMBER 25-27**

*Parelli Celebration,  
Fort Worth, TX, USA*

## OCTOBER

**OCTOBER SAVVY CLUB DVD**

*Focus on Finesse*

**OCTOBER 7-11**

*Horse of the Year Show,  
Birmingham, U.K.*

**OCTOBER 9-11**

*Parelli Celebration,  
Lakeland, FL, USA*

**OCTOBER 17**

*Savvy Summit,  
Ocala, FL, USA*

**OCTOBER 18**

*Florida Parelli Center  
Winter Session Begins*

## NOVEMBER

**NOVEMBER 13-15**

*Your Horse Live,  
Stoneleigh Park, UK*

**NOVEMBER 21-22**

*Parelli Celebration,  
Birmingham, UK*

**NOVEMBER 2**

*Savvy Summit,  
Stoneleigh Park, UK*

*I'm still reeling from the Celebration over the weekend! There are no words to describe how wonderful it was. We were actually able to meet and speak with Pat and Linda! We loved the smaller setting and all that happened - Walter Zettl was unbelievable, and Lauren left us all in tears. We were able to try out the fluidity saddle and now know what size to order later in the summer. Thank you to everyone at Parelli - it just keeps getting better! —Karen L.*

# Will You Be There?

Here's to celebrating horses and the future... naturally. We can't wait to see you there!

Visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com) for details and to learn more about special offers only for Savvy Club members!



## 2009 CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Franklin, TN | Jan. 30–Feb. 1  
Sydney, Australia | Mar. 13–15  
Harrisburg, PA | Apr. 17–19

Reno, NV | May 15–17  
Madison, WI | June 5–7  
Kansas City, MO | July 24–26

Fort Worth, TX | Sept. 25–27  
Lakeland, FL | Oct. 9–11  
Birmingham, England | Nov. 21–22





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